



Forensic intelligence for those who act.

READER EDITION

April 27, 2026

ISRAEL BRIEF

Monday, April 27

Paper architectures fail their first audits this week. The operational ones don't.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE AIVD has put on the record what every European intelligence service knows and what most European governments would prefer not to formally acknowledge. Hamas operates inside Western Europe as live infrastructure — fundraising, mobilization, and operational coordination — within a network that European arrest chains have only begun to map. The €8 million Leidschendam case is financial scaffolding. The November arrests across four countries reveal the kinetic side. The Liberation Day expulsion is what happens when that infrastructure meets the second mechanism European Jews now live inside — the cultural license to treat Zionism, Israel, and Jews as an interchangeable, acceptable target set, ratified upward through senior progressive officeholders and downward through street activism that polices public space. The Brigade descendants were marched out of the rally honoring their grandfathers' war by Italians rife with Jew-hate. The Vaughan and Brooklyn assaults are the diaspora reality. The AIVD report is an official confirmation of what, or rather whom, that reality is being prepared by. The Jewish Agency's "One People" survey released last week filled in the rest: 56 percent of European Jews and 64 percent of British Jews have now had aliyah conversations at home. The governments doing the most to suppress acknowledgment of the operating environment are the same governments their Jews are quietly preparing to leave.

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Reader Edition

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THE frameworks took their first real audits this weekend. Tehran walked out of Islamabad and tabled a Hormuz-only proposal that asks Washington to end the war and leave the centrifuges spinning. Beirut emptied its detention cells of the Hezbollah operatives caught moving Grad missiles south. Sohlberg's panel wrote the operative haredi sanctions the coalition has spent two years studiously avoiding.

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Flash Brief

- **Iran:** Ghalibaf out, IRGC overrides on Hormuz, Khamenei overrides on enrichment; Tehran tables Hormuz-only proposal Trump's situation room reviews Monday. *See The War Today.*
- **Lebanon:** Hezbollah drone kills Sgt. Idan Fooks ז"ל; Beirut releases every detained operative; Qassem closes direct talks; Mt. Meron mass event cancelled. *See The War Today.*
- **Qatar evicts Hamas:** al-Hayya text-evicted from Doha during his Cairo trip after rejecting US disarmament; 20-year patronage ends; most leadership already gone. *See The War Today.*
- **Haredi enforcement:** Sohlberg orders operative sanctions on housing, daycare, transport, municipal tax; June 1 reporting deadline; Lando vows total defiance. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Beyachad:** Bennett-Lapid form joint list with Bennett as PM candidate for October's election; Filber poll places Likud at 34, right bloc at 64. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Shekel:** NIS 2.98 to dollar — first sub-3 close since 1995; manufacturers price NIS 31.5 billion in lost exports if trend holds. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Iron Dome to UAE:** First foreign deployment of the system, first Israeli combat operators on Gulf soil — Abraham Accords pressure-tested under Iranian fire. *See Israel and the World.*
- **European Jew-hate:** AIVD confirms Hamas network in the Netherlands; Jewish Brigade descendants expelled from Italy's Liberation Day rally. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Tuesday cliff:** Two-week US-Iran truce expires Tuesday night; Israeli officials told to prepare for renewed hostilities. *See Developments to Watch.*

BELow: why Tehran's Hormuz-only proposal functions as capitulation in costume; what Beirut's prison receipts mean for the truce framework Trump signed last month; what Sohlberg's deadline does to the haredi enforcement architecture the coalition has spent two years not building; the Iron Dome battery that crossed to Abu Dhabi during the Iran war; and the Liberation Day rally that defined the European operating environment more clearly than any intelligence report could.

Three years after October 7, Israel is winning the kinetic war, and the kinetic wins are starting to write their own structural consequences — sometimes faster than the political class can broker them. Qatar texted Khalil al-Hayya the eviction notice that ends 20 years of Hamas patronage; the Iron Dome battery that crossed to Abu Dhabi did the same kind of structural work in the other direction. The frameworks Western institutions wrote — the Lebanon truce, the Gaza disarmament window, the EU partnership track — are taking their first real audits this week, and most are not coming back clean. Whether Israel can build more of its own and fewer of theirs, faster, before the calendar turns is the question the rest of the brief is asking.

The War Today

Iran's Negotiating Track Collapses into Hormuz-Only Proposal as Tuesday Cliff Approaches

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf stepped down as Tehran's lead US negotiator over the weekend after Khamenei's inner circle reportedly reprimanded him for trying to include the nuclear program in talks, with hardline politician Saeed Jalili and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi competing to take over the role. The Iranian delegation walked out of Islamabad before the second round opened. Trump is expected to convene a working group today in the situation room. Tehran has now tabled, via Pakistani mediators, a proposal that excises nuclear from the agenda entirely: reopen Hormuz, end the war, lift sanctions, defer enrichment talks indefinitely. Trump described an earlier Iranian paper as much improved within ten minutes of his cancellation but "still falling short." Iran's interior numbers are doing their own talking — meat prices up roughly 700 percent, the rial above 1.3 million to the dollar, Pezeshkian asking citizens to ration household electricity, and a decommissioned tanker repositioning to Kharg Island for emergency oil storage. VP Esmail Saghab Esfahani's "one well equals four wells" warning is the regime's pricing of the coming American move on Iranian energy infrastructure.

ASSESSMENT

The "Hormuz-only" proposal asks Washington to end the war and leave the centrifuges spinning — exactly what every prior nuclear track produced and exactly what Trump's red line was meant to prevent. Ghalibaf's removal tells the story the regime is trying not to tell: the foreign ministry never had authority over the file, the IRGC overrode him on Hormuz, Khamenei's office overrode him on enrichment, and the man Tehran sends to Pakistan cannot bind Ahmad Vahidi — who runs the actual program. Trump waits, the Saudi liquidity pays Pakistan to keep the table open, the blockade compounds, and Iranian wells slide closer to the kind of internal pressure damage that takes years and billions to repair. The regime's bet is that American polling cracks before Iranian production does. The off-ramp Beijing might broker — taking custody of the enriched uranium without anyone publicly conceding — remains an avenue that lets Tehran avoid surrender.

Hezbollah Drone Kills IDF Sergeant; Lebanon Releases Every Detained Operative

Sgt. Idan Fooks ז"ל, 19, of the 7th Armored Brigade, was killed Saturday in southern Lebanon's Taybeh when a Hezbollah explosive FPV drone struck a stuck tank from the 77th Battalion during repair work. Six soldiers were wounded, four seriously. Hezbollah launched two further drones at the IAF rescue helicopter during casualty evacuation [the second detonating meters from the airframe (without damage — which is luck, not deterrence)]. Drone-infiltration sirens hit northern Israel this morning at 7:40 local time. The IDF lost contact with one suspected hostile aircraft from Lebanon, sirens at 8:05 in the Western Galilee were ruled a debris-fall precaution, and the Home Front Command reinstated 1,500-person gathering caps along the Confrontation Line and across the Meron-Bar Yochai corridor through Monday

evening. Netanyahu cancelled this year's mass Lag B'Omer hillula at Mount Meron, citing Lebanon-border proximity, recent rocket activity, and large-scale evacuation difficulty under fire, and convened a small ministerial group last night on Iran and Lebanon options including escalating strikes beyond southern Lebanon. The IDF dismantled more than 50 Hezbollah infrastructure sites south of the Forward Defense Line over the past days, including a weapons cache stored inside a children's room in Aadshit al-Qusayr [Hezbollah's standing answer to anyone still confused about what "civilian casualties" mean in this war]. Lebanon, meanwhile, has now released every Hezbollah operative its own military courts had detained for arms-restriction violations. The two most recent of which admitted to transporting 21 Grad missiles, 3,000 rounds of ammunition, and eight machine guns from the Bekaa Valley to the south for "confronting the IDF." Their bail? Roughly \$1,120. Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem on Monday rejected direct Lebanese-Israeli negotiations and demanded a return to the indirect track.

ASSESSMENT

Beirut emptied its detention cells of the men its own judges convicted of moving Hezbollah missiles south. Hezbollah killed Idan Fooks, z"l, and attacked the rescue helicopter. Qassem closed the direct-talks track Lebanon's prime minister had just opened. The architecture Trump signed in mid-April assumed a Lebanese state that would enforce, an Iran-axis client that would respect text, and a diplomatic process that could carry both. None of those optimistic assumptions survives this weekend. What remains is Netanyahu's "forcefully" order. At some point, since Beirut cannot produce meaningful arrests inside its own courts, Jerusalem will stop asking — and the question becomes what Hezbollah keeps north of the Litani after the country decides it has had enough.

Qatar Cuts the Doha House Loose after al-Hayya Rejects US Disarmament Plan

Hamas chief negotiator Khalil al-Hayya summarily rejected the US-backed disarmament proposal — staged Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in exchange for Hamas handing over rockets, drones, anti-tank missiles, and terror-tunnel maps by early May — during meetings in Cairo this weekend, and was notified by text message during the same trip that he had been evicted from his five-star Doha accommodations and barred from re-entering Qatar. Doha is reportedly pulling 20 years of investment in the group. Most of Hamas's senior leadership has already departed. The breaking point was Operation Roaring Lion. 16 days of Hamas silence as Iranian missiles struck Qatari sovereign territory, broken only by a delayed statement defending Iran's "right of self-defense" with a perfunctory request that Tehran refrain from targeting "neighboring countries." Hamas's internal civil war — Khaled Mashal's pragmatic faction pressing for diversified Sunni Arab patronage, al-Hayya's hardline faction pressing to remain inside the Axis of Resistance — now runs without Doha running interference that let both factions defer the choice. Ankara has reportedly offered tentative sanctuary in exchange for regional influence. The terms and the volume of Turkish material support remain unclear.

ASSESSMENT

The mediation service Doha sold for 20 years — terrorist political access, marketed primarily to a Washington that needed a back channel — has lost the only customer that mattered. Of course, they still find Al Jazeera and have all their terrorism sympathies. This is a small carve-out. The Trump administration has no use for Doha-mediated Hamas talks. Hamas has stopped delivering Doha-mediated outcomes. And Iranian missiles striking Qatari territory while Hamas defended Iran's right to fire them was the demonstration the Emir needed that the asset stopped providing the cover it was supposed to. The text-message format is — Doha telling al-Hayya from his Cairo hotel that he has no room to return to is a patron declaring the relationship over and unwilling to give the negotiator the dignity of a meeting. The structural consequence is that Hamas's choice between Sunni Arab and Iranian patronage is now forced. The Sunni Arab option requires moderation Mashal cannot deliver to the al-Qassam Brigades and pragmatism the al-Qassam Brigades will not accept. The Iranian option requires support from a regime whose Quds Force commander spent the weekend in Baghdad reconsolidating what is left of the franchise. Ankara is the third option, and it solves Hamas's accommodation problem without solving Hamas's revenue problem. Erdogan, fortunately, does not have Qatari liquidity. The early-May disarmament window remains the formal deadline. Today's eviction is the answer to whether Hamas has the political bandwidth to meet it. It does not.

Inside Israel

Court Hands Down Operative Haredi Sanctions; Lando Vows Total Defiance

The High Court on Sunday ordered the state to take concrete operative steps within weeks to revoke financial benefits from haredi draft evaders and move toward criminal enforcement, in a contempt-of-court ruling led by Deputy Supreme Court President Noam Sohlberg. The court directed the Israel Land Council to decide within 21 days how to condition subsidized housing on draft compliance, the Labor Ministry to do the same for daycare and afternoon-care subsidies, and the finance, transportation, and interior ministers to decide within 35 days on public-transport and municipal-tax discounts. June 1 is the next reporting deadline. Roughly 76,000 draft-age men are now classified as evaders or under draft orders, about 80 percent of them haredi. Between January 2025 and January 2026, Military Police arrested 17 haredi evaders in proactive operations; of 442 indictments filed against evaders in 2025, 81 went to haredim, and only seven of the first 96 indictments in 2026. The Israel Police, the court noted with unusual sharpness, has continued declining to detain haredi evaders during routine encounters or assist Military Police in haredi population centers, citing concerns over public disorder. Hours after the ruling Sunday evening, Rabbi Dov Lando of Ponovezh told the yeshiva that “yeshiva students will not go to the army under any circumstances, neither by coercion nor voluntarily, whether there is a law or not,” called the judiciary’s actions “wickedness,” and predicted the decrees would “vanish like a passing wind.” UTJ’s Yitzhak Goldknopf called the ruling a black-flag-flying red-line crossing. Degel HaTorah’s Moshe Gafni warned Israel was losing “its identity as a Jewish and democratic state.”

ASSESSMENT

The court has moved from declaring the law to designing the enforcement, and is doing so because the executive branch has — for years now — refused to do either in this space. Sohlberg’s panel did not invent a draft policy. It read out the law that has been on the books since June 2023 and ordered ministers to apply the standing benefits regime to people violating it. The ruling is unusually durable. It is procedurally narrow, legislatively grounded, and structurally (if not rhetorically) immune to the judicial overreach framing the coalition will inevitably reach for (and is usually right in reaching for). Rabbi Lando’s “passing wind” speech declares that Israeli law does not run inside Ponovezh, and that the haredi leadership intends to defeat the state’s enforcement architecture by absorbing the financial sanctions and counting on the police to keep declining to make arrests. Goldknopf’s rhetoric and Gafni’s framing are the coalition leverage threats they always are — pull the budget, fold the government, force an election. The variable that has changed since the last cycle of those threats is reservist and public patience. Both are fully exhausted. Netanyahu’s working problem is that the political price of conceding to the haredi parties has become higher than the political price of losing them.

Bennett and Lapid Merge as the Right Bloc Holds 64

Former Prime Ministers Naftali Bennett and Yair Lapid formally merged their factions Sunday into a new joint list called Beyachad (“Together”). With Bennett crowned the prime ministerial candidate against Netanyahu in October’s election and Lapid taking safe seats below him — the *third* Bennett-Lapid alliance since 2013, structured this time around political survival as much as strategy. Bennett’s poll numbers had been declining. Lapid’s had been collapsing toward 6–7 seats. And Eisenkot’s solo trajectory was beginning to consume both — the merger went through before Eisenkot got too large to absorb. A poll places Likud first at 34 seats (after the merger). A recovery from the position last week’s polling that prompted the Edelstein-Kahlon-Haskel-Erdan exploratory talks for a Likud B alternative. The new Bennett-Lapid list is at 20, the Joint List and Shas tied at 11 each, Eisenkot’s party at 9, and Yisrael Beiteinu, the Democrats, and UTJ at 8 each. Otzma Yehudit at 7. Religious Zionism has recovered and is now at 4. Bloc totals: 64 seats for the right, 45 for the left, 11 for Arab parties — the right slips two seats but holds a coalition. Separately, Netanyahu’s trial testimony, scheduled to resume Monday after roughly six weeks of postponement, was abruptly cancelled 90 minutes before the hearing on his attorney’s request, with the Cabinet Secretary’s office citing security consultations on Lebanon and Iran. President Isaac Herzog is reportedly not planning to grant the prime minister’s pardon request and will instead attempt to broker a renewed plea-deal mediation [a track that already failed once in 2021–22, and that requires the consent of Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara, whose continued tenure Bibi’s coalition has been actively trying to end].

ASSESSMENT

The Bennett-Lapid merger fixes the center-opposition's most chronic problem — that two competent former prime ministers have spent the last three years splitting the same anti-Netanyahu vote. Though it studiously avoids fixing the structural problem, which is that the Israeli electorate continues to deliver coalitionable arithmetic to the right. The merged list polls at 20, not the 30 that 2021 numbers might have predicted, because the coalition the two men ran together broke under precisely the policy contradictions reuniting them does not resolve. Eisenkot's 9 seats are interesting — a former chief of staff who is currently the most popular individual political figure in Israel, drawing from soft-right voters who will not return to Bennett because he sat with Mansour Abbas, and who will not vote for Lapid for any reason. His choice is whether to fold into Beyachad early at the cost of Bennett's prime ministerial position, or ride solo momentum and extract leverage at the wire. He will not be choosing yet.

Shekel Hits a 30-Year High and Starts Cracking the Export Sector

The shekel broke below NIS 3 to the dollar for the first time since 1995, hitting NIS 2.98 — a 6 percent appreciation against the greenback so far in 2026, 20 percent over the past year. Driven by foreign and domestic equity inflows, dollar weakness, and the geopolitical-stabilization narrative that has restored investor risk appetite for Israeli assets. The Israel Manufacturers' Association estimates exports will fall NIS 31.5 billion (\$10.5 billion) over the coming year if the trend holds, with NIS 3 billion in lost tax revenue in 2026 alone. Industrial exports excluding diamonds are already down 9 percent year-on-year for the first quarter. A. Grebelsky & Son — the third-generation Jerusalem-stone exporter whose product fronts the Met, AIPAC's Washington headquarters, the National Library, and the Israeli Supreme Court — says the combined effect of the shekel rise and Trump's 15 percent tariff on Israeli goods has added 35 percent to its cost of competing in the US market. The Bank of Israel is staying on the sidelines, allowing the strong shekel to do deflationary work the wartime fiscal deficit cannot, declining both intervention and rate cuts the export sector demands.

ASSESSMENT

Israel is being punished by its own success. The same investor confidence that has flooded Tel Aviv with foreign capital is making the country's exports uncompetitive, and the Bank of Israel is letting it happen because the alternative — fiscal expansion to absorb the shock — would deepen the inflation problem the war has already produced. The trade-off the central bank is making is rational on its own terms and unsustainable across a multi-year horizon. Tech exports run more than 50 percent of total exports and a third of state tax revenue, which means a sustained currency squeeze translates directly into Treasury shortfall and into hiring decisions at the multinationals that drive both.

Israel and the World**Iron Dome's First Foreign Deployment Crossed to the UAE under Fire**

Early in the Iran war, Israel transferred an Iron Dome battery to the United Arab Emirates along with the Israeli personnel needed to operate it — the

first combat use of Iron Dome outside Israeli territory. The deployment, approved by Netanyahu after a direct call with the Emirati president, intercepted dozens of Iranian missiles fired during the campaign that targeted UAE military and civilian infrastructure [Tehran's response to the Abraham Accords pricing was to make Abu Dhabi pay for them by missile]. Israeli and Emirati officials describe operational and intelligence cooperation as "their strongest yet." Israeli Air Force strikes on Iranian missile positions targeting Gulf states ran throughout the war, and a senior Emirati official said the assistance "would not be forgotten." The presence of Israeli troops in the UAE remains formally undisclosed by both governments and is politically sensitive in the regional context.

ASSESSMENT

Five years of bilateral economic and diplomatic infrastructure produced a Gulf state willing to receive Israeli military assets and Israeli soldiers on its territory under fire. The deployment matters operationally and strategically as a precedent for any future campaign in which Iran or its proxies target Abu Dhabi, Manama, or Riyadh. The Saudis read this carefully. Israel demonstrated bilateral security integration functions as deployable insurance. The political risk for Mohammed bin Zayed at home and regionally was real. He took it anyway. The reason is the calculation Riyadh is currently computing. Namely, that Iran's regional architecture has been degraded enough by Rising Lion and Roaring Lion that the cost of overt Israeli alignment is no longer prohibitive. And the cost of doing without Israeli capability during the next round may be the difference between intercepting and absorbing.

Hamas Networks, Liberation Day Expulsions, and the European Operating Environment

Dutch intelligence (AIVD) confirmed that an active Hamas network has been organizing pro-Palestinian demonstrations, fundraising, and lobbying inside the Netherlands, with at least ten people linked to a Dutch cell within a broader European Hamas infrastructure. The Netherlands Public Prosecution Service is seeking a three-year sentence for a 58-year-old Leidschendam man accused of transferring approximately €8 million to Hamas between 2010 and 2023. AIVD is also investigating threats following the November arrests of Hamas operatives in Germany, Denmark, the UK, and Austria in connection with a Lebanese Hamas cell preparing attacks on Jewish or Israeli targets across the continent. Saturday in Italy, Jewish-affiliated organizations marching in Milan's annual April 25 Liberation Day rally — including the symbolic banner of the Jewish Brigade, the WWII unit of roughly 5,000 Jewish soldiers from Palestine who fought in Italy alongside the partisans — were harassed, told "you are lucky you are not a soap bar," chanted at with "long live Hitler," prevented from continuing the march for roughly an hour, and finally escorted out by authorities for their own safety. [Liberation Day, the day Italy commemorates being liberated from fascist tyranny, conducted in 2026 by expelling the descendants of the soldiers who liberated it.] Ontario police are investigating a hate-crime assault on a Sephardic Kehila Centre congregant punched outside Saturday morning prayer by a man who had first attempted to force his way into the synagogue. Brooklyn police charged a Queens man

wearing an Iranian regime flag t-shirt with three hate-crime assaults on Jewish residents Friday. Over half of all confirmed New York hate crimes in Q1 2026 targeted Jews, who are roughly 10 percent of the city's population.

ASSESSMENT

AIVD has put on the record what every European intelligence service knows and what most European governments would prefer not to formally acknowledge. Hamas operates inside Western Europe as live infrastructure — fundraising, mobilization, and operational coordination — within a network that European arrest chains have only begun to map. The €8 million Leidschendam case is financial scaffolding. The November arrests across four countries reveal the kinetic side. The Liberation Day expulsion is what happens when that infrastructure meets the second mechanism European Jews now live inside — the cultural license to treat Zionism, Israel, and Jews as an interchangeable, acceptable target set, ratified upward through senior progressive officeholders and downward through street activism that polices public space. The Brigade descendants were marched out of the rally honoring their grandfathers' war by Italians rife with Jew-hate. The Vaughan and Brooklyn assaults are the diaspora reality. The AIVD report is an official confirmation of what, or rather whom, that reality is being prepared by. The Jewish Agency's "One People" survey released last week filled in the rest: 56 percent of European Jews and 64 percent of British Jews have now had aliyah conversations at home. The governments doing the most to suppress acknowledgment of the operating environment are the same governments their Jews are quietly preparing to leave.

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- *Ynet*: Reichman analyst Jeshurun Hight rightly argues Pyongyang's April 19 Hwasong-11 Ra cluster-warhead test — the seventh North Korean launch of 2026 — was engineered specifically to defeat Iron Dome saturation, and that Iran's surviving proxy network has rerouted to Yongbyon as its original supplier. The institutional knowledge Israel could not bomb sits in North Korea, which means Hezbollah's future salvos can arrive carrying no Iranian markings.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- *JNS*: Israel's cabinet unanimously approved Michael Lotem on Sunday as Israel's first ambassador to Somaliland — non-resident, based in Jerusalem — four months after Jerusalem became the first state to recognize Somaliland's 1991 independence declaration. The OIC bloc condemned the appointment as a "flagrant violation" of Somali sovereignty, which is the price Jerusalem agreed to pay when it traded the diplomatic optics for a Sunni-majority partner that supports the Abraham Accords on the Horn of Africa.
- *Times of Israel*: Netanyahu condemned Saturday night's attempted assassination of Trump at the White House Correspondents' Dinner, going further in framing than US officials, who can admit only that the gunman told arresting officers he had wanted to shoot administration figures. The

prime minister's framing buys solidarity capital in the only currency the Trump White House actually values, days before tomorrow's Iran cliff arrives.

- *Jerusalem Post*: UNRWA's Judea and Samaria operations have moved to four-day school weeks and a 20 percent staff hour cut after the agency closed 2025 with \$570 million in donations against \$880 million in claimed services and 571 layoffs in January.
- *Jerusalem Post*: Mali's Defense Minister Sadio Camara was killed Saturday at his Kati military-base residence outside Bamako in the largest JNIM and Tuareg coordinated assault in years, with simultaneous attacks reported in Mopti, Gao, and Kidal. The al-Qaeda Sahel franchise is consolidating territory at exactly the rate that fuels the migration corridor European arrest chains have begun mapping inland from the Mediterranean — geography ties the Sahel and the European front together more cleanly than Brussels likes to admit.
- *Times of Israel*: A response published this week engaged with our "The Two Middles" Dossier, accepting the partisan-sort thesis as substantively correct but arguing two reasons for cautious optimism — that Democratic elites still separate Israel from Netanyahu rhetorically, and that radical anti-Israel activism repels mainstream Democrats more than it recruits them. Both observations describe the present moment without, in our view, altering the eight-to-twelve-year trajectory we mapped. Optimism is fine — and welcome (which may come as a surprise to my rabbi) — but we really need to avoid the continued institutional complacency if we are going to reap that harvest.

Domestic & Law

- *Times of Israel*: The Environmental Protection Ministry deleted "hundreds of thousands" of factory-emissions documents from its website during the Iran war at the National Emergency Authority's request, citing Iranian targeting of the Bazan Haifa refinery (struck four times) and Neot Hovav (struck three). The ministry's own Knesset committee legal adviser has confirmed the removal violates the Clean Air Act. The wartime target-hardening reflex is heading to a High Court petition *Adam Teva V'Din* intends to file.

Culture, Religion & Society

- *Jerusalem Post*: The Israeli-American Council ran 27 Celebrate Israel festivals across 21 US cities for Israel's 78th Independence Day, drawing thousands in New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Atlanta, Las Vegas, Washington, and beyond. IAC CEO Elan Carr framed the visibility as the answer to the moment. The as yet unanswered question is whether the Jewish institutional class can convert that visibility into the political infrastructure we actually require.

- *Israel National News*: The Council of Sephardi and Oriental Communities in Jerusalem issued a cease-and-desist letter Sunday demanding TikTok-popular Rabbi Eyal Zionov stop appearing in the cloak and turban traditionally reserved for the Rishon Lezion — citing exclusive rights established under Ottoman and Mandate-era practice.
- *Jerusalem Post*: The Jerusalem Center for Applied Policy unveiled “Chief Rabbis at the White House” at the President’s Residence Sunday. Covering events from Chief Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook’s meeting with Calvin Coolidge and tracing through Chief Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog’s 1941 plea to FDR on European Jewry and his audience with Truman.
- *Times of Israel*: David Levitt argues that the recently introduced Antisemitism Response and Prevention Act — backed by the Nexus Project and Bend the Arc — does virtually nothing operationally and folds what remains into a “broader extremism” frame that dilutes it. The fight the progressive Jewish institutions backing this bill have actually picked is over consequences. And the answer they have written into the legislation is no.
- *St. Louis Jewish Light*: Rabbi Ze’ev Smason of the Coalition for Jewish Values reflects on Bret Stephens’s “October 8th Jew” — the post-October 7 Jew waking up to who they are — pointing to the national survey showing more than four in ten American Jews more engaged in Jewish life since the massacre, and to the smaller acts the survey data cannot capture. The piece’s quiet thesis: antisemitism can wake a community up but cannot keep it Jewish — that work belongs to the awakened, and to the institutions still figuring out what to do with them.

Developments to Watch

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **Cabinet escalation review past the Yellow Line** — Netanyahu’s small-group yesterday reviewed options to strike Hezbollah beyond southern Lebanon. Beirut has now released its arms-violation detainees and Hezbollah has killed Sgt. Idan Fooks ז”ל — the diplomatic clock runs out faster than the operational track waiting on it. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Mt. Meron stripped-down event** — Netanyahu cancelled the mass Lag B’Omer hillula but the limited symbolic ceremony stays on the calendar. Whether even that holds depends on Hezbollah’s drone tempo.

Gaza & Southern Theater

- **Hamis leadership relocation in motion** — Qatar text-evicted al-Hayya from Doha during his Cairo trip after he rejected the US disarmament proposal; most senior leadership has already left. Ankara is the tentative third home, and the Mashal-al-Hayya internal split is now operational. Watch where Hamas’s external command surfaces over the next 30–60 days, and which patron underwrites the rebuilding.

- **Early-May disarmament deadline collides with patron collapse** — The formal Hamas deadline to hand over rockets, drones, anti-tank missiles, and tunnel maps by early May now coincides with the dissolution of the patronage structure that brokered every prior Hamas concession. The cabinet decision arrives when the window closes. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

Diplomatic & Legal

- **Luxembourg post-Orban test** — The EU Foreign Affairs Council convenes tomorrow in Luxembourg — first since Hungary's April 12 government change ended Orban's veto on EU-Israel Association Agreement suspension. Magyar's Tisza has not committed publicly; Tuesday tests whether the qualified-majority arithmetic actually exists.
- **Gofman Mossad confirmation challenge** — Movement for Quality Government and Forum Homat Magen LeIsrael filed Sunday to block IDF Maj.-Gen. Roman Gofman's upcoming installation as Mossad chief, citing former Justice Grunis's Senior Appointments Advisory Committee dissent. AG Baharav-Miara is named respondent — second lawfare case this week running through her.

Home Front & Politics

- **Netanyahu Tuesday testimony attempt** — Netanyahu is expected to attempt his trial testimony tomorrow after Monday's was cancelled 90 minutes before the hearing on his attorney's request.
- **Likud B post-merger viability** — Filber's Channel 14 poll places Likud back at 34 seats first, walking back the position last week's "Likud B" exploratory talks among Edelstein, Kahlon, Haskel, and Erdan were responding to. Whether that exploration survives Bennett-Lapid's consolidation is the question now live inside Likud's own caucus.
- **Reservist machinery on haredi enforcement** — The court's 21-day, 35-day, and June 1 deadlines run against an Israel Police still declining to arrest haredi evaders during routine encounters. Whether the police and the implicated ministries actually execute Sohlberg's operative steps determines whether June 1 produces compliance or a contempt sequel.

Tomorrow night brings the Iran round back to a decision cliff. Qatar closed the Hamas house this weekend. Beirut closed the Lebanon truce without admitting it. Sohlberg gave the coalition a calendar. Lando gave it the answer. None of these is finished — though some of them already are.

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