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READER EDITION

June 10, 2026

ISRAEL BRIEF

Wednesday, June 10

American jets are firing into Iran, and the question of whether Israel was dragging Washington into a war just answered itself.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE The thread running Sydney to Zurich to Wayne, New Jersey is the same one Israel's Diaspora Affairs Ministry mapped this week in its Germany and Italy reports — a Muslim Brotherhood network building youth pipelines and real-estate hubs behind a moderate public face, the parent organization of the group that ran October 7 [the report names 12,000 Brotherhood-linked individuals in Germany alone]. Washington answered the threat environment with a \$40 million bump to the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, lifting next year's proposal to \$355 million — a number advocates note is barely a third of the \$1 billion the need actually runs, which is what it costs to put armed men outside a Florida synagogue and reinforced doors on a Bournemouth shul. The prosecutions are real and the funding is real, and neither is keeping pace with the hatred that filed all four charge sheets.

CLASSIFICATION

Reader Edition

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THE United States is again a shooting party to the war it spent the spring managing from the sidelines. An American helicopter went down over Hormuz. Trump said Washington had no choice, and CENTCOM put ordinance on Iranian soil over its own downed crew. For two months we have read the regime testing every ceiling it could find. It found the one that fires back.

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Flash Brief

US strikes Iran: Iran downs a US Apache over Hormuz; CENTCOM hits air defenses and radar down the coast. See The War Today.

Iran answers: The IRGC claims 21 strikes on US bases in Jordan and Bahrain; a wall of interceptors logs the actual result. See The War Today.

Nuclear table: Talks were narrowing toward a 15-year enrichment freeze and dilution before the shooting resumed, with the IRGC as the obstacle. See The War Today.

Beaufort cache: Givati clears a brigade-scale Hezbollah weapons complex the 45-day extension let the group harden. See The War Today.

Hamas money men: Israel eliminates the head of Hamas's funds-transfer network and his deputy in northern Gaza. See The War Today.

Tank refusal: Twelve hesder rabbis pull students from the Armored Corps over the co-ed-tank order, vowing every other unit stays filled. See Inside Israel.

No charges: The Comptroller finds Israel had nowhere to hold October 7 detainees, and not one attacker has been charged. See Inside Israel.

The slate: Trump muses Netanyahu may retire; Netanyahu fights to control the Likud list and rerun the joint right. See Inside Israel.

Six capitals: Britain, Canada, France and three more sanction Smotrich as a UN panel files the libel into the record. See Israel and the World.

UN on Hamas: The UN documents Hamas publicly executing Gazans, and for once the citation runs the other way. See Israel and the World.

Four charge sheets: Prosecutors in Sydney, London, Zurich and New Jersey file against the same Jew-hate in a single day. See Israel and the World.

Watch: The IRGC opens a Kurdish front mid-exchange, and the EU weighs its bloc-wide Smotrich sanctions vote for June 15. See Developments to Watch.

THE American strike does not change what the IDF has been doing on the fronts Washington never paused. Givati is still clearing by hand the Beaufort stockpile no Lebanese institution was ever going to confiscate, the air force is still hunting the drone crews bleeding troops in the north, and the Shin Bet is still thinning the financiers who refill Hamas faster than the ground operation degrades it. What shifted overnight is the actor. The president who spent the spring deciding when Jerusalem could fire is now firing himself, over an American crew. The story that Israel bullied a reluctant Washington into someone else's war does not survive that.

The War Today

WASHINGTON STRIKES IRAN DIRECTLY AFTER THE APACHE GOES DOWN OVER HORMUZ

The war the April halt was supposed to end now has American jets firing into Iran. Iran shot down a US Army Apache on patrol over the Strait of Hormuz overnight, both pilots pulled from the water off Oman within two hours, and Trump posted that the United States “must, of necessity, respond.” CENTCOM then ran what it called self-defense strikes, hitting Iranian air defenses, ground-control stations, and radar around the strait. The targets ran the length of coastal Hormozgan: Sirik, Jask, Bandar Abbas, the coastal batteries on Qeshm, with a senior official telling Channel 12 a third wave was underway. Iran answered against US bases in the region, the IRGC claiming 21 targets including the Muwaffaq Salti command node at Al-Azraq in Jordan and the Fifth Fleet at Bahrain. A US official says the 21-strike claim is “completely untrue,” Jordan reported intercepting all five missiles aimed at it, and the Bahraini and Kuwaiti batteries logged interceptions where the IRGC claimed hits. The strikes landed against a nuclear track the New York Times reported was narrowing toward four points before the shooting resumed: a 15-year enrichment suspension, dilution of the existing stockpile, dismantlement of core facilities, and snap inspections, with the IRGC the obstacle on the Iranian side [i.e., no deal anyway]. Zamir told commanders the IDF holds immediate readiness for “another severe and deep strike,” that Monday’s operation was “preparation for a much more significant and powerful blow.”

ASSESSMENT

Downing the helicopter was not a hole in the ceasefire but a use of it — the Navy’s intercept aircraft is what keeps Hormuz open, and a regime that treats violence and diplomacy as the same tool fires across the line to price its way back to the table. The IRGC’s 21-target boast against a wall of intercepts is the same battle-damage theater Tehran ran after Ramat David. Trump’s diplomats are still circulating a draft that suspends enrichment for fifteen years and dilutes the stockpile while the centrifuges spin and the inspectors stay locked out — the regime keeps talking because the talking is the part that buys back what the strikes are taking. Zamir’s readiness line is the IDF answering when while the table is still asking whether.

IDF HUNTS THE DRONE CREWS AS HEZBOLLAH PROBES THE ONE UNFROZEN FRONT

The IDF kept striking Hezbollah across southern Lebanon, hitting ready-to-use launchers and the drone-launch sites, while a senior Air Force officer named the operational read plainly: Hezbollah is trying to stop a ground maneuver with drones, “the only way for us to succeed is to hunt the drone operators and kill them,” and the evacuated villages south of the Litani give the IDF a target picture without Gaza’s collateral complexity. Givati troops cleared a weapons complex on Beaufort Ridge a senior officer called brigade-scale — missiles, rockets, RPGs, drone labs, the supply spine the forty-five-day extension let Hezbollah harden. Air defenses downed two Hezbollah drones

over Nahariya without sirens, Kiryat Shmona caught a preliminary alert on launches from Lebanon, and the Lebanese gunman who crossed at Ramim Ridge in uniform and opened fire was identified and killed, a rifle and knife on him, no soldiers hurt.

ASSESSMENT

No Lebanese institution was ever going to confiscate the stockpile the ceasefire promised to make unnecessary, so the 36th Division is clearing it by hand. Hezbollah probing the fence on the morning the IDF is fixed on Iran is the group testing whether the line still holds while the eye is elsewhere. The officer hunting drone crews is describing a manhunt, and it works because the evacuations cleared the ground.

ISRAEL KILLS HAMAS'S MONEY MEN INSIDE ITS OWN FINANCING WINDOW

The IDF and Shin Bet eliminated Khader Jamasi, the head of Hamas's funds-transfer network, and his deputy Muhammad Harazin in an airstrike in northern Gaza, the pair moved tens of millions of dollars to the armed wing across two and a half years of war. Lebanese reporting says Hamas, for its part, arrested a Gazan it suspects of tracking Izz al-Din al-Haddad's family and feeding the intelligence that set up his elimination.

ASSESSMENT

The disarmament clause keeps getting answered with target folders — strike the financiers rebuilding the network from facilities Hamas presents as civilian, and the truce the group reads as a reload window becomes the cover under which the bench gets thinned. Reaching the money men is the harder enforcement. That Hamas is arresting its own over the al-Haddad strike is the tell that the strikes are landing where it hurts.

Inside Israel

HESDER RABBIS PULL STUDENTS FROM THE TANK CORPS AS HAREDI STREETS RIOT

Twelve hesder yeshiva heads ordered their students to stop enlisting in the Armored Corps from the next draft, answering the High Court's order to integrate women into the maneuvering tank fleet — a pilot already slipped from November 2025 to November 2026. The signatories run from Alon Moreh and Itamar to the Kotel yeshiva and Kiryat Arba, with three more asking to be left unnamed. They were explicit that their thousands of combat-track students will keep serving in every other unit, and that the burden falls on the IDF to build a framework that holds halacha. The civil-society women's movements answered within hours, calling it refusal in the middle of a war and demanding the rabbis face the same civil penalty any draft-refuser would. The same night, hundreds blocked Bar Lev in Jerusalem and the Nahar HaYarden approach in Beit Shemesh — but this crowd was haredi, burning tires for the jailed evaders and for the rioters arrested outside Justice Sohlberg's home in Alon Shvut, where windows were smashed, his car vandalized, and his family menaced. A police cruiser was attacked before Yasam and Border Police cleared the routes. Underneath the street, the Finance Committee moved to

restore the daycare subsidies for full-time yeshiva students that the Attorney General had cut, and Regional Cooperation Minister Amsalem called anyone acting against Torah students an antisemite, the Attorney General included.

ASSESSMENT

The refusal that lands hardest this week is the one nobody expected — religious-Zionist rabbis whose students fill the combat rolls telling them to skip the corps that does the maneuvering, over a co-ed-tank pilot the IDF could have built a halachic framework for the day the order came down and chose not to. Hold that next to the haredi streets demanding the evaders go free, and the burden question has stopped sorting on the secular-religious line the press still draws it on [the kippot-serugot crowd and the chareidi crowd want opposite things from the same army, and only one of them is offering to keep serving]. The coalition's move underneath is the same maneuver tracked all spring. Finance restored the daycare line the AG cut, ahead of the Basic Law that would make the exemption permanent.

NO OCTOBER 7 TERRORIST CHARGED BECAUSE ISRAEL HAD NOWHERE TO HOLD THEM

State Comptroller Matanyahu Englman found that Israel went into the war without the prison capacity to absorb the thousands of security detainees it would take, and that the failure cascaded: overcrowding degraded the Shin Bet's ability to hold and interrogate suspects, endangered guards, and forced the release of nearly twenty high-level prisoners back toward Gaza for lack of space. Not one terrorist who took part in the October 7 massacre has yet been charged — a gap Englman called of crucial legal, moral, and public weight. The report landed the same week the Constitution Committee advanced the coalition's bill for a politically appointed October 7 commission of inquiry, stripping a clause that would have let the comptroller fill vacant panel seats while preserving the coalition's power to seat the body and run it without the opposition, which has pledged to boycott anything short of a state commission [which is a no-go for the other half the country who don't trust the court, so the stalemate languishes].

ASSESSMENT

Englman is reading the cardiogram of the security state Israelis have been paying for and not getting — this time the unpaid bill is the one detail that should have been impossible to botch, a country at war with no room to lock up the people who started it, releasing some of the worst because the cells were full. The accountability vacuum runs both directions in the same week: the report names a failure five governments preferred not to close, and the coalition advances an inquiry it will appoint, seat, and chair, into a massacre that happened on its watch. The political echelon and the legal echelon are both fighting to keep themselves out of the crosshairs—which is unfortunate since both had failures that led to the security situation. Failures, some of which, are still yet to be resolved.

THE COALITION HEADS TOWARD OCTOBER AS NETANYAHU FIGHTS TO CONTROL THE SLATE

Trump told ABC it was “an open question” whether Netanyahu wants another term — “he's had an amazing career” — and Likud answered within the day that the prime minister will run and, “with God's help, win,” as a fresh Israel

Democracy Institute poll put better than sixty percent of Israelis against his standing for reelection. The internal Likud fight is already open: Netanyahu is weighing scrapping the party primary for a vetting committee of aligned mayors, or keeping the primary while widening his power to reserve slots, with the party's own legal adviser warning he cannot cancel the primary or pad the reserved seats without broad member consent. On the slate, he is again trying to fold Otzma Yehudit and Religious Zionism into a joint run, dangling a reserved Likud spot apiece for Ben-Gvir and Smotrich. Both are refusing, Ben-Gvir confident of eight to ten seats alone, Smotrich unwilling to ride second. Gideon Sa'ar already holds the first reserved spot on the list. On the other flank, Hadash, Ta'al, and Balad are close to reviving the Joint List without Ra'am, after Mansour Abbas demanded the top spot and a guarantee he would not be branded a traitor for joining a future coalition.

ASSESSMENT

A foreign president floating that the wartime prime minister might walk, and a domestic poll showing the country would let him, are the same datum from two ends — the war that has kept Netanyahu's coalition fused is the only argument left for keeping it, and the war is winding toward whatever Washington calls a deal. The list mechanics are the tell that he reads the cycle as winnable on his terms: a leader planning to lose does not fight to control who fills the slate. Love him or hate him, there's no coherent claim that he isn't a politician through and through. If he reads the tea leaves as giving him a shot, there's something there. He wouldn't risk his legacy otherwise. The Arab realignment is the mirror image of the coalition's own bind — the same arithmetic that forces this government's haredi alliance forces the bloc on the other side to choose between unity and Abbas's price, and neither side has solved it.

Israel and the World

SIX CAPITALS SANCTION SMOTRICH AS A UN PANEL FILES THE LIBEL

Britain, Canada, France, Norway, Australia, and New Zealand announced coordinated sanctions against Israeli residents of Judea and Samaria and the entities said to finance them, the announcement Paris had been assembling with London and Oslo for the better part of a week now landed and widened to six governments. France banned Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich from entry alongside four heads of "settler organizations" and twenty-one named individuals, the same instrument it reached for against Ben-Gvir in May. Britain's package targets financial flows and a construction firm; Canada designated a separate firm and barred Canadians from dealing with anyone on the list. The joint statement threatened further measures unless Jerusalem takes "urgent steps," and pointed at the E1 corridor east of Jerusalem as the next trigger. Hours earlier, the UN Commission of Inquiry under Navi Pillay issued a report charging that Israeli authorities enabled "settler" attacks through financial and military support, seating the Israeli civilian in Judea and Samaria on the same page as Hamas — a body the report separately found committed war crimes. The Foreign Ministry rejected both as political instruments dressed as accountability; the Yesha Council answered that the Knesset should

dismantle the Palestinian Authority and extend sovereignty across the territory.

If you're inclined to agree with the UN that the "settlements" are illegitimate or if you say they're complicated... I've got a book for you. Rooted in Judea: Lives and Law in the Heart of Israel — available from Barnes & Noble, Bookshop.org, Amazon, and wherever books are sold.

ASSESSMENT

Every piece of this was draftable a week before it surfaced — the Quai d'Orsay entry-ban template was already run against Ben-Gvir, the national lists were assembled to route around a qualified-majority vote that does not exist, and Pillay's panel reached its finding the way every UN panel on Israel reaches its finding [the verdict was filed before the evidence; the evidence is decoration]. Six governments banning a sitting Israeli minister and a UN body filing the libel into the record on the same morning is one campaign deploying its prepared material on the first available trigger. The package is built to credential a "Palestinian state" by manufacturing the accountability gap that justifies recognizing one — the New York Declaration's anniversary meeting convenes in Paris in two days to do exactly that. What none of it reaches is the E1 corridor east of Jerusalem, which is why the threat names E1 and why Smotrich will read the entry ban as confirmation the building works.

THE UN DOCUMENTS HAMAS EXECUTING GAZANS, AND THE CITATION CUTS BOTH WAYS

The UN human rights office released a report finding that Hamas terrorists and police units in Gaza beat, maimed, and publicly executed dozens of Palestinians during the war — blindfolded men shot in public squares, kneecappings, bones broken with metal pipes and cement bricks, beatings staged to spread fear — and concluded the extrajudicial punishments amount to war crimes. The same machinery that produced the Guterres conflict-sexual-violence annex listing Israel beside Hamas, and the Pillay inquiry's settler-rape allegations, this week put Hamas's terror against its own subject population into the UN's own record under the UN's own letterhead.

ASSESSMENT

A UN report does not need to be true to be useful — it needs to be citable, and for once the citation runs the other way. The brief spends most editions reading the laundering pipeline in the direction it usually flows, hostile claim to UN annex to "consensus" the corporate-left press repeats without sourcing. Here the office whose default product is the libel has authenticated, in the register Western newsrooms treat as dispositive, what "freedom fighters" actually do to the people they govern [the same outlets that will quote a UN finding against Israel by lunchtime have a sudden methodological curiosity about this one]. The document is in the record. Whether it gets cited with the eagerness the annexes against Israel always are is the test of whether the instrument was ever about the facts.

META BUILDS THE THROTTLE FOR JEWISH ACCOUNTS AND THE MEGA-PHONE FOR THE LIBEL

A year after Zuckerberg ended proactive moderation on Facebook, Instagram, and Threads, the ADL measured the trade: antisemitic comments on Jewish

lawmakers' pages climbed from 6.5 a day to 29.9, toxic comments rose thirteenfold, and 277 million posts that the old system removed now stay up — and feed straight into Meta's AI training models. The Antisemitism Research Center tracked Instagram's recommendation engine pushing 100 antisemitic posts to ordinary feeds over 96 hours, 5.3 million likes and an estimated 280 million-user reach, including twelve AI-generated fake-rabbi accounts with 2.1 million combined followers run by scammers in South India. Against that, the copyright system runs the other direction: a Gmail-filed claim under Disney's name, accepted by automation no human reviewed, demonetized a Jewish creator documenting antisemitism.

ASSESSMENT

The platform that can pick the one user who will buy a two-dollar ad cannot, it insists, find Holocaust denial racking up millions of views — and removed 7 percent of the extremist content the ADL formally reported while clearing government takedown requests in thirty seconds apiece. That gap is a policy choice wearing the costume of a technical limit. This is the digital terrain the adversary bought and the home side keeps treating as a broadcast medium to be appealed to, one support-chat transcript at a time, while the recommendation engine that trains the next model is learning Jews are demons at 280 million impressions a cycle. The New Mexico verdict and the Tel Aviv October 7 class action are the only instruments that have made Meta move on anything; the appeal button is not one of them.

FOUR CONTINENTS FILE THE SAME CHARGE SHEET AGAINST THE SAME JEW-HATE

The prosecutions stacked up across four jurisdictions in a single day. In Sydney, the Commonwealth laid 19 new counts against Naveed Akram, the surviving Bondi Beach gunman who with his father murdered 15 Jews and wounded 41 at a Hanukkah party in December, bringing his total to 78 and carrying a homemade ISIS flag into the trunk for the prosecution to enter into evidence. In London, British prosecutors charged a fifth man over the March arson that destroyed four Golders Green Hatzalah ambulances, one node in a wave that drove a 72 percent jump in capital antisemitic hate crimes in May and put incendiary devices at synagogue doors. A Swiss teenager who pledged to ISIS goes on trial July 1 for stabbing a 50-year-old Orthodox man and trying to break into a Zurich synagogue to kill more. A New Jersey man was charged Monday for plotting an ISIS attack on a synagogue or a National Guard site. Los Angeles logged 46 anti-Jewish hate crimes through May, on pace to clear 110 for the year. And in Berlin, the first Jewish master baker admitted to the city's bakers guild closed both branches of Babka and Krantz after years of what the owners called constant abuse since October 7, one of them shuttered beside the villa where the Wannsee Conference planned the Final Solution.

ASSESSMENT

The thread running Sydney to Zurich to Wayne, New Jersey is the same one Israel's Diaspora Affairs Ministry mapped this week in its Germany and Italy reports — a Muslim Brotherhood network building youth pipelines and real-estate hubs behind a moderate public face, the parent organization of the group that ran October 7 [the report names 12,000 Brotherhood-linked individuals in Germany alone]. Washington answered the threat environment with a \$40 million bump to the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, lifting next year's proposal to \$355 million — a number advocates note is barely a third of the \$1 billion the need actually runs, which is what it costs to put armed men outside a Florida synagogue and reinforced doors on a Bournemouth shul. The prosecutions are real and the funding is real, and neither is keeping pace with the hatred that filed all four charge sheets.

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

Israel Hayom: The probe into the Hamas cell uncovered in Cyprus has found children of two principal suspects serving inside the island's own security forces, with one suspect tied to October 7 — a jihadist network reaching into the institutions of an EU member state.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

Algemeiner: Britain says its new law against hostile-state proxies takes force next month, carrying jail terms up to fourteen years for anyone who works for or funds a designated group, written after the London synagogue arson wave MI5 ties to Iran. Fewer than ten designations are expected in the first year, and the bill leaves open whether the IRGC itself makes the list.

Jerusalem Post: Senior Fatah official Jibril Rajoub publicly rejected the technocratic committee meant to run post-war Gaza under Trump's Board of Peace, breaking with Abbas's own endorsement and calling the body "an Israeli recipe for reinforcing Palestinian division."

Jerusalem Post: Iraq's new prime minister Ali al-Zaidi is heading to Washington at Trump's invitation, having staked his program on pulling the Iran-backed militias under state control and on keeping them out of the Israel-Iran exchange.

Public Diplomacy & Media

Jewish Insider: Randy Villegas, who calls Israel a genocidal regime and pledges to vote against military aid, won California's jungle primary over the moderate Democrat that DMFI and party leadership had tried to boost. The new anti-AIPAC super PAC outspent the pro-Israel money to do it, which is the part worth watching.

Algemeiner: Dave Matthews, who two years ago told Al Jazeera that Netanyahu's visit to Congress was "obscene," read a prepared statement at a North Carolina concert professing "deep respect and love" for the Jewish people while

keeping his stance on Gaza intact. [We're fairly certain his "deep respect and love" is for PR, ticket sales, and royalty reports — not the Jewish people.]

Algemeiner: Palestinian Media Watch documents PA TV recasting Israel's response to the Iranian strike as the unprovoked aggression and a ceasefire violation, the same outlet that reported four Palestinian women killed by Iranian "missile fragments" without naming Iran.

Domestic & Law

Arutz Sheva: The Tax Authority reportedly opened a covert investigation of UTJ chairman Yitzhak Goldknopf over undeclared real estate and intra-family transfers, after Baharav-Miara signed off on it.

Ynet: The Knesset passed in second and third reading a cap on the legal fees lawyers can bill IDF disabled veterans and terror-attack victims pursuing recognition claims, after years of cases where attorneys took five and six figures out of the compensation owed to the wounded.

Economy, Tech & Infrastructure

JNS: Israel takes the presidency of the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum in July, chairing a bloc of Egypt, Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Jordan and France after the members held their first in-person ministerial conference in over three years. The chair widens the forum's mandate past natural gas into the broader regional energy economy — the seat to watch as the Egypt export track and the EastMed interconnectors move.

Jerusalem Post: The State Comptroller found Israel entered the war with a decade of stalled cyber legislation, no dedicated security-cabinet session on cyber since 2018, and 90.5% of twenty-one key economic bodies carrying no cyber insurance. The country that exports the defenses left its own critical-infrastructure steering committee dark for fourteen months after October 7.

Culture, Religion & Society

JNS: Israeli Culture Week opened in Tirana (the capital of Albania) for the third year running, a Muslim-majority Balkan nation that ended the Holocaust with more Jews than it started with hosting Israeli artists, chefs, and musicians while record antisemitism runs across the West. Albania's parliament launched an Israel Allies Caucus last year, so the warmth is structural, not just ceremonial.

Israel Hayom: The 43rd Jerusalem Film Festival will open with Moshe Rosenthal's "Atzmaut," which premiered at Sundance this year — the first Israeli narrative feature to make the American festival in a decade.

Developments to Watch

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

Hezbollah turns the barrage into Beirut leverage — Hezbollah is working Iran's missile strikes into a case that the cabinet should swing back toward Tehran, reports indicate. The group cannot hold the south against the IDF, so it reaches for the one ground it might still take. A wavering Beirut is where the disarmament track dies without a shot fired.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

Tehran weighs turning its fire on Israel — Iran's leadership debated answering the American strikes by hitting Israel instead, the IRGC pressing for it and the political echelon holding back, reports indicate. What stayed their hand was the counterstrike they expect would not stop at air defenses — the one that reaches the energy infrastructure the regime cannot fight a war without. The restraint holds only as long as that fear does, and every day Washington stays in the exchange is a day the IRGC's case gets easier to make.

The IRGC opens the Kurdish front mid-exchange — As the US and Iran traded fire, the IRGC struck Iranian-Kurdish opposition headquarters across Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan, with multiple explosions reported and a drone tracked toward the city. A cornered regime that has hidden its successor and faces the street is exporting the war onto a front it can open at will. A strike inside Kurdistan pulls Erbil and Baghdad in and runs the missile lanes past US personnel. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

The Red Sea gets its first hull — A cargo vessel exchanged fire with an armed craft roughly 88 nautical miles off Yemen, the security team holding until the craft turned away. The Houthi ban on Israeli-linked shipping stopped being words the moment a boarding party closed on a deck. The next interdiction that lands reopens the maritime front Israel spent a year pushing closed.

Moscow and Beijing wall off the Security Council — Russia and China have told Washington they will block any move to renew or impose UN sanctions on Iran. With the Council route shut and the IAEA censure landing this week, the only pressure left runs through the strikes themselves. Tehran keeps the inspectors locked out knowing no resolution arrives to make it answer.

Diplomatic & Legal

The IRGC raises the bar on any deal — IRGC commander Vahidi is said to have set a condition that Tehran takes cash in hand the moment any agreement is signed, with the foreign ministry separately saying last night's fire forces it to recalculate the talks. The men who control the centrifuges keep adding terms the paper has to deliver. Every one of them is a term Washington cannot meet without the next strike answering for it.

The EU sanctions vote lands June 15 — Six governments banned Smotrich through national lists this week, and the EU's foreign ministers convene Sunday to weigh the bloc-wide version on both him and Ben-Gvir. Italy drives it, Prague holds the last veto. A qualified-majority pass would route past the single-state brake the national lists were built to dodge.

Home Front & Politics

The AG split slips past the election — Rothman now says the bill carving up the Attorney General's office takes effect only on January 1, 2027, around the time a new government forms. The structural change the coalition raced to lock in this term now waits on who wins the seat that writes the rest.

The regime is firing what it has, narrating a victory the interceptors deny it, opening a Kurdish front it can reach at will, and adding terms to a deal it needs Washington to keep alive. Which is why Tehran keeps the inspectors locked out and the negotiators in the room at the same time. The open question remains is the limited strike packages deterrence enough? The answer, unsurprisingly, seems like no.

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ABOUT MITZPE INSTITUTE

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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