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READER EDITION

June 14, 2026

ISRAEL BRIEF

Sunday, June 14

Trump sells Iran an open strait for a stockpile “diluted at an appropriate time,” and the IDF is advancing on Nabatieh.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE An eighteen-year veteran of the Toronto force is dead because the Islamic Republic decided that Jews praying in Thornhill and Vaughan were legitimate targets, and a Canadian SWAT officer walked through the door the regime built. We have tracked this network as it moved its planning offshore and the indictments arrived faster than the convictions [the open question is still whether Ottawa prosecutes or quietly drops these the way last year’s encampment charges went away]. Twenty-two governments naming the IRGC’s campaign on the record is the threshold the diaspora has waited two years for — but a joint statement is not a proscription, and a Canadian cop paid with his life for the years his government spent treating an Iranian intelligence operation as a domestic shooting file.

CLASSIFICATION

Reader Edition

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A signature does not end this war, it hands Tehran the energy core back for a promise to keep talking about the centrifuges. The deal Trump wants signed today for his eightieth birthday reopens Hormuz, eases the sanctions, and leaves the missiles and the enrichment where they were. Jerusalem is reading the draft like everyone else, and Netanyahu has nothing he can sign and no reason to.

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Flash Brief

- **Iran deal:** Trump calls off a third night and wants a sixty-day MoU signed today — strait reopened, centrifuges spinning. *See The War Today.*
- **Tehran wobbling:** Mojtaba's approval unconfirmed, an MP calls the draft worse than the last two, protesters curse Araghchi at the ministry. *See The War Today.*
- **Lebanon advance:** The IDF drives on Nabatieh, takes the Ali al-Taher ridge, and Netanyahu tells negotiators no Iran paper binds Israel here. *See The War Today.*
- **Gaza truce:** Washington builds a base on the fence with no stated purpose as enforcement-by-elimination runs straight through the ceasefire. *See The War Today.*
- **Jerusalem Haredi Faction:** Thousands shut the highways and rail over draft arrests, beat soldiers in the street, and mimic the IDF's Gaza evacuation leaflets. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Hesder boycott:** The tank refusal reaches twenty-five yeshivot as Zamir answers and the hesder umbrella disowns its own rabbis' letter. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Watchdog restructure:** The coalition pulls Mahash under the Justice Minister, and a court keeps Urich beside Netanyahu over the prosecution's objection. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Slovenia reverses:** Ljubljana's new government scraps the arms embargo, the Netanyahu entry bans, and the boycotts the morning the EU votes to widen sanctions. *See Israel and the World.*
- **UN report:** The Commission's fifth report runs "settler violence" numbers it never collected, sourced to NGOs Israel designates as PFLP fronts. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Toronto:** A constable is killed serving the warrants in Iran's synagogue-shooting campaign as twenty-two governments name the IRGC on the record. *See Israel and the World.*

STRIP the signature off today's deal and what is left is a regime banking four hundred million a day in oil revenue, with the inspectors still locked out. The card that kept the IRGC's hands off Israel for two weeks was the fear of a strike reaching the energy core, and the papers hand that core back intact. Everywhere the framework outsources the hard part — disarming Hezbollah, disarming Hamas, closing the burden question at home — the actual enforcement is the maneuver unit, the target folder, and the arrest that sticks, and none of those three is in anyone's text.

The War Today

TRUMP CALLS OFF THE THIRD NIGHT AND SELLS IRAN A SUNDAY SIGNING
Trump pulled back a planned third night of strikes Thursday with US aircraft hours from launch, and now says a sixty-day memorandum of understanding gets signed today, on his eightieth birthday. The text keeps Iran's nuclear program in place — the parties only commit to keep negotiating the enrichment

question — leaves the missile arsenal out of scope entirely, lifts sanctions in part, and reopens the Strait of Hormuz the moment the ink dries. The enriched stockpile gets “diluted and destroyed at an appropriate time” (read: never). Reopening the strait restores Iran four to five hundred million dollars a day in oil revenue against nothing but a promise to talk, the same week Trump was threatening to seize Kharg Island and hit Iran “very hard.” Tehran has not finalized anything. Mojtaba’s approval is reported but unconfirmed, an MP calls the latest draft worse than the last two, and protesters outside the foreign ministry chanted “death to Araghchi, the dishonorable compromiser.” Iran launched UAVs at merchant shipping crossing Hormuz again overnight and a projectile hit a tanker six miles off Oman. Israel is not a party, was caught off guard by the pace, and a senior official calls the deal bad for Israeli interests. Netanyahu will not attend Trump’s bilateral signing ceremonies.

ASSESSMENT

A year and a day after Rising Lion opened this war to reach exactly this energy core, the strikes that followed set the nuclear program back years and left the missile lines in ruins, and the paper undoes none of that — what it hands back is the leverage, the open strait and the oil revenue and the fear of a counterstrike that kept the IRGC’s hands off Israel for two weeks, traded for a stockpile “diluted at an appropriate time” on Tehran’s schedule with the inspectors still locked out. This is the Hormuz-only outcome we flagged in April, now wearing a signature: end the war, bank the revenue, leave the centrifuges spinning [the “appropriate time” doing the same work “without delay” did in every prior nuclear track]. Trump has spent the spring rationing Israel’s permission to fire and now writes the terms of the stop himself, with Jerusalem reading the draft like everyone else. The probability we tracked at low that limited strike packages would coerce the regime resolves where the field said it would: two nights of fire bought a tolled strait and a piece of paper the regime will ignore.

THE IDF DRIVES ON NABATIEH AS ISRAEL REFUSES TO LEAVE LEBANON

Israeli forces opened a ground offensive overnight to take Kfar Tibnit and the Ali al-Taher ridge that commands Nabatieh, the Lebanese army pulled back from its positions in the village, and evacuation orders went out for twenty-nine villages across the Nabatieh district. Troops now hold Majdal Zoun in the western sector, past the Yellow Line, and have begun rigging and detonating buildings inside the village. Hezbollah confirmed the forces were inside in a communique after first claiming they were only “on the outskirts.” The army struck more than 310 Hezbollah sites over the week and eliminated roughly eighty operatives, including a seven-man cell, and disclosed how the 36th Division feinted north before cutting a hidden route across terrain Hezbollah read as impassable to seize the Beaufort Ridge and the underground garrison beneath it. Hezbollah runs its equation game from the strip it can call a battlefield: two drones crossed into the Western Galilee at first light and fell near the border as children arrived at school, the third violation of the Dahiyeh equation against northern towns since Friday, and a guided round hit an IDF vehicle near Yohmor. Underneath the fire sits the Lebanon clause folded into the Iran deal — Tehran and Hezbollah demand a full Israeli withdrawal, Washington wants a pullback to the Yellow Line, and

Netanyahu refuses to leave any of it, telling the negotiators that whatever Iran signs does not bind Israel in Lebanon.

ASSESSMENT

At least the IDF is effective. Lebanon, a state which cannot disarm Hezbollah, is now asking through Tehran for the army that does the disarming to leave. The Lebanese soldiers withdrawing from Kfar Tibnit ahead of the advance are the whole premise in one image — the state hands the ground back the moment the IDF stops holding it, which is why Netanyahu has no option but continue. Smotrich pressing to drop ten Dahiyeh buildings for every round fired north is the cost of the alternative made explicit: absent the maneuver, the equation gets enforced from the air on the suburbs instead of on the ground at the ridge. The deeper the line runs before any halt, the less the next launcher reaches.

WASHINGTON BUILDS ON THE GAZA FENCE AS THE TRUCE RUNS ON STRIKES

The US is constructing a military base on the Gaza border with no stated purpose, and an Israeli security source puts the odds of fighting resuming higher than the odds of a diplomatic deal. Mediators are glum on any breakthrough before the fall election, reading Netanyahu's cooperation with the Trump plan as thinning while he campaigns and fearing he renews the war. A US official insists Israel can still be brought along if Hamas disarms first. Hamas again refuses (obviously), the Palestinian factions rejected the mediators' roadmap over the weapons clause, and the group executed three Gazans overnight it accused of helping Israeli strikes. The IDF killed Mohammed al-Namruti, a commander in Khan Yunis's northern battalion, in a drone strike on the Amal neighborhood, part of a week that eliminated more than twenty in the strip. Anti-Hamas activists are organizing protests inside Gaza for June 26.

ASSESSMENT

Enforcement-by-elimination runs straight through the ceasefire because the disarmament clause was never going to be honored and everyone drafting the roadmap knows it. A base going up on the fence "with no clear purpose" shows that Washington is planning for the war to resume. Hamas shooting three of its own for the strikes it cannot stop is the same regime that will not hand over a rifle it can still fire — the offer that surrenders nothing, met with the only enforcement that has moved the bench all spring.

Inside Israel

THE JERUSALEM FACTION SHUTS THE COUNTRY DOWN AND BEATS SOLDIERS IN THE STREET

Thousands of Jerusalem Faction men, the hardline anti-conscription wing of the haredi world, paralyzed central Israel on Thursday over the arrest of yeshiva draft-evaders, blocking Highways 1, 4 and 6, halting trains nationwide, and disrupting Ben Gurion to the point that soldiers could not get home and travelers were stranded. The shutdown converged on the Ganot interchange, the rail artery that feeds Tel Aviv from Beersheba, Jerusalem, Modiin and the airport. A 93-year-old man was moderately injured when a car breached

the crowd at Geha, a second ramming hurt a 21-year-old in Petah Tikva, and a driver who confronted protesters with a metal rod was attacked. By nightfall the crowd set upon a soldier from the Hasmonean Brigade, the IDF's haredi infantry unit, in Mea Shearim, screaming "chardak" — the movement's slur for a haredi who enlists, roughly "feather-brained haredi." Police had to extract three more soldiers from a mob in Shmuel HaNavi. The night before, organizers had circulated an "evacuation notice" for the Dan region built to mimic the IDF's Arabic-language warnings to Gazans. In Ashdod the crowd assembled around a detained "evader" who turned out to be secular. The Faction's parting message to the state whose army these ultra-Orthodox men refuse to join: leave the Torah students alone "and there will be quiet here."

ASSESSMENT

Mimicking the IDF's evacuation leaflets is reprehensible — the protest has stopped pretending the burden question is about anything other than who is exempt from carrying it. This is what the absence of a statute leaves the street free to do, and a police posture that "allows protest but not disruption" has again told the next mob what the disruption will actually cost it, which is nothing. Ninety thousand men outside the system, an army roughly 12,000 combat soldiers short, and a coalition spending its final weeks attempting to write a long-term Torah study into a Basic Law as "significant service" to protect these "scholars." Harumph. They're hooligans at best. Though, I will admit, they ought to study Torah — they have a lot left to learn.

HESDER RABBIS' TANK BOYCOTT HITS TWENTY-FIVE YESHIVOT AS ZAMIR ANSWERS AND THE UNION SPLITS

The hesder rabbinic refusal to send students to the armored corps over the IDF's women-integration pilot reached twenty-five yeshivot Thursday, thirteen joining in a single day. Chief of Staff Zamir addressed it for the first time, insisting the integration "will not come at the expense" of hesder students and that one community will always be able to serve alongside another. The Hesder Yeshivot Association then disowned the rabbis' letter outright — its council wrote that it is in "constant dialogue" with the IDF, that students will enlist in the corps in August "according to halacha," and that the refusal letter came from rabbis representing fewer than half the hesder institutions and unaware of arrangements already underway. Twelve women's organizations petitioned Zamir from the other side, charging that conditioning women's combat service on rabbinic consent "is a call to refusal," and demanding the pilot proceed without further delay. Women are now roughly 21 percent of the IDF's combat force.

ASSESSMENT

The refusal is fracturing the religious-Zionist camp against itself — the umbrella association and the signing rabbis are now publicly contradicting each other on whether August enlistment to the corps that does the maneuvering is even in question. The IDF could have written the halachic framework for women-only tank crews the day Bagatz ordered the pilot and chose not to. Zamir is left promising to square the circle at a podium [the people's army discovering that "a place for everyone" is harder to staff than to say], with the women's groups and the hesder rabbis each reading his words as a concession to the other.

THE COALITION RESTRUCTURES WATCHDOGS WHILE THE COURT LETS URICH STAY

The Knesset passed the law late Wednesday pulling Mahash, the unit that investigates police and in some cases Shin Bet personnel, out of the State Attorney's Office and rebuilding it under the Justice Minister, who now gets the decisive voice in choosing its chief. The legal guild petitioned the High Court within hours, and the State Attorney warned the watchdog must stay independent. Hours after Baharav-Miara's office charged Netanyahu adviser Jonatan Urich with offenses including intent to harm state security in the Bild classified-leak case and moved to bar him from the Prime Minister's Office and any secure facility, a Tel Aviv District Court judge rejected the prosecution's request — Urich stays beside Netanyahu and keeps running the Likud campaign. Communications Minister Karhi, meanwhile, inserted and then withdrew a clause handing Netanyahu and Shin Bet chief Zini authority to direct media organizations during election periods.

ASSESSMENT

The elected branch is reclaiming the appointments and oversight bodies the unelected branch spent years treating as its own, and the guild's answer arrives on schedule — a petition filed within hours of the Mahash vote, the State Attorney warning about independence on the way out the door. The Urich ruling is the same pattern read in reverse: an office that has spent three years timing its filings to the political calendar moved to sever a sitting prime minister's campaign manager from his post during a campaign, and a judge declined to give it what the indictment alone could not. Karhi's election-media clause was, however, a genuine overreach in the batch, and the coalition pulled it the moment the opposition called it out [a reminder that the line is real and the coalition can find it].

Israel and the World

SLOVENIA TEARS UP THE WHOLE SANCTIONS FILE THE MORNING EUROPE VOTES TO WIDEN IT

Ljubljana's new center-right government revoked the 2025 arms embargo on Israel, resumed importing goods from Judea and Samaria, and lifted the persona non grata status it had hung on Netanyahu, Ben-Gvir, and Smotrich. Janez Jansa's coalition, sworn in this month after a deadlocked March election, is unwinding the entire posture his predecessor Robert Golob built — the country that recognized "Palestine" in 2024, banned weapons transit, barred Netanyahu, and boycotted Eurovision over Israel's participation. Days earlier the same government approved Israel's first embassy in Slovenia. Sa'ar welcomed it. The reversal lands as the EU's foreign ministers convene tomorrow to weigh a bloc-wide sanctions package on Smotrich and Ben-Gvir.

ASSESSMENT

One government changed hands in Ljubljana and the entire instrument — the embargo, the entry bans, the recognition vote — came off the shelf as faster than it went on. Six capitals sanctioned Smotrich four days ago and Brussels meets tomorrow to spread the version that needs a qualified majority the bloc cannot reliably assemble. The whole package travels on the domestic politics of whoever holds the chair, not on anything Israel did or did not do.

THE UN'S FIFTH REPORT COUNTS WHAT IT CANNOT VERIFY

The UN Independent Commission of Inquiry's fifth report calls "settler violence" in Judea and Samaria a rising epidemic and names Israel "primarily responsible," sustaining the attacks through "financial and military support" while its courts grant impunity. The Commission leans on OCHA's database, which collects no data of its own — it relies on Addameer, Al-Haq, Defense for Children International-Palestine, B'tselem, and Al Mezan, three of them designated as PFLP-affiliated terror organizations. The database logs nearly every encounter between Jews and Arabs as "settler violence" regardless of who started it: a U.S. citizen and former Marine wounded returning fire on a Palestinian who shot him, 1,361 Jewish visits to the Temple Mount, 1,613 instances of Israelis hiking ground Palestinians say Jews may not enter. By the Commission's own count of nine Palestinian deaths in 2025, the per-capita rate lands near Boise, Idaho, while the same year the Shin Bet foiled 1,374 terror plots — though 54 terror plots were carried out, killing 25 Israelis.

ASSESSMENT

"Settler violence" is a category built to invert the threat picture, and this report is the assembly line caught with the panels off. Whatever actual violence which remains is repugnant and is treated criminally by Israel. Good. But let's not pretend that it is a raging phenomenon that merits International condemnation on this scale. Six governments sanctioned Smotrich last week on the strength of exactly this category, which is the point of running Palestinian self-reporting through a UN letterhead until it reaches a European foreign ministry scrubbed of provenance — the same machinery that counts an under-construction frame on a hillside as a demolished home and an Israeli hiking trail as an assault, then hands the total to the press as corroboration [an NGO that calls Israel genocidal feeds the number to a UN body that calls Israel genocidal, and the agreement gets reported as proof]. The Shin Bet's own count says the violence runs the other way by something close to two orders of magnitude.

☒ *Rooted in Judea: Lives and Law in the Heart of Israel: — I spend quite a bit of effort in the book taking the "settler violence" category apart at the source, walking OCHA's own methodology page where it concedes it counts uninhabited structures as homes, and running the Shin Bet numbers that show who is actually doing what to whom.*

TORONTO BURIES A CONSTABLE KILLED SERVING THE IRAN-SYNAGOGUE WARRANTS

A Toronto police constable, Marc Pinizzotto, was shot and killed Thursday morning serving one of several warrants in the probe of the March 10 US consulate shooting and a string of attacks on Greater Toronto synagogues. A second suspect, nineteen-year-old Zara Jabbi, remains at large and armed.

The shootings trace to Kataib Hezbollah official Mohammad Bagher Saad Dawood al-Saadi, who told an undercover officer his “people” carried out both the consulate and synagogue attacks — part of roughly twenty plots across North America and Europe run under a front banner for the Iranian proxy. Three Toronto synagogues were shot up in March, two of them in the days after Purim. Canada and twenty-one other states issued a joint statement Wednesday demanding Tehran end its attacks on Jewish, Israeli, and dissident targets on their soil.

ASSESSMENT

An eighteen-year veteran of the Toronto force is dead because the Islamic Republic decided that Jews praying in Thornhill and Vaughan were legitimate targets, and a Canadian SWAT officer walked through the door the regime built. We have tracked this network as it moved its planning offshore and the indictments arrived faster than the convictions [the open question is still whether Ottawa prosecutes or quietly drops these the way last year’s encampment charges went away]. Twenty-two governments naming the IRGC’s campaign on the record is the threshold the diaspora has waited two years for — but a joint statement is not a proscription, and a Canadian cop paid with his life for the years his government spent treating an Iranian intelligence operation as a domestic shooting file.

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- *Arutz Sheva*: Israel released Sheikh Hassan Yousef — a senior Hamas figure in Judea and Samaria, father of the defector “Green Prince” — from administrative detention back to Ramallah.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- *Jerusalem Post*: The State Department forced Colombia’s Petro to cancel a New York meeting with Mayor Mamdani, citing the visa restrictions imposed after Petro urged US soldiers to disobey Trump over Gaza.
- *The JC*: Britain joined Australia and Canada to launch a £3 million “International Peace Fund” for Israeli-Palestinian civil-society projects, pitched as building toward a two-state solution and pledged to “crack down on violent settlers.”
- *Forward*: Jacob Reses, Vice President Vance’s Jewish chief of staff and the closest Jewish official in his orbit, is leaving the administration at summer’s end. He exits as Vance draws fire from Jewish Republicans for declining to confront the Jew-hate surging on his own flank.

Public Diplomacy & Media

- *Israel Hayom*: BDS activists drove millions of TikTok views on the claim that Al-Arz tahini’s cedar logo proves the Israeli brand is “disguising” itself as Lebanese, until anyone checked and found a Nazareth company that has

put the cedar on its tins since 1992 — and that Islamists boycotted years ago for donating to Arab LGBT youth.

- *JNS*: California's AB 1853 would let elections officials strip hateful content from candidate statements, after a gubernatorial candidate got the claim that Israel orchestrated 9/11 printed in the official June 2026 voter guide mailed to millions.
- *Algemeiner*: BDS pressure forced Israeli director Nadav Lapid — a Netanyahu critic living in France whose latest film attacks the government — off the FID Marseille jury, drawing a rebuttal from more than 350 industry figures including Natalie Portman that the campaign punishes an artist for the crime of being Israeli.

Domestic & Law

- *JNS*: Netanyahu pledged to bring the entire Bnei Menashe community — roughly 6,000 people from northeastern India — home within four years, with about 1,200 arriving in 2026 and a new absorption center opened in Nof Hagalil.
- *Israel Hayom*: The Health Ministry is moving the second MMRV dose forward from age six to eighteen months after a measles outbreak that killed 17 children and drove some 1,250 hospitalizations.
- *Walla*: The High Court rejected the petition to bar Yoaz Hendel's party from running as "the Reservists," letting the name stand over claims it trades on the reserve-duty mantle heading into October 20. Hendel called the petitioners coalition errand-boys.

Economy, Tech & Infrastructure

- *JNS*: Israeli startups raised roughly \$8.6 billion in the first half of 2026, up 45% on last year, even as the number of rounds fell about 35%.
- *Times of Israel*: Canada's Nuvei is in advanced talks to buy Israeli-founded cross-border payments firm Payoneer for about \$2.7 billion, with roughly 1,000 of its 2,000 staff in Israel.
- *Globes*: Elbit Systems jumped 6.46% on the Tel Aviv exchange after announcing strategic-collaboration agreements with Germany's Diehl Defence and America's Anduril, leading a 3.57% rise in the Tel Aviv Defense Index.

Culture, Religion & Society

- *JNS*: Archaeologists at Ancient Shiloh, beside the site identified with the Tabernacle, pulled three Middle Bronze Age storage jars out of a layer that sat under the Late Bronze and Iron Age strata, days before the site's annual wine festival. The ground in Binyamin keeps handing up the Jewish deed to Judea and Samaria faster than anyone can write the denial.
- *Jerusalem Post*: Iranian missile-interception fragments cratered the Simantov family's white lily plot on the Carmel, the only place in the country still holding the original wild Carmel lily, rebuilt from a few dozen bulbs to tens of thousands over two decades.
- *Israel Hayom*: Reichman University handed honorary doctorates to outgoing Mossad chief Dadi Barnea, Arrow-3 developer Inbal Kreiss, and Eli

Sharabi, who survived 491 days in Hamas captivity after the murder of his wife and daughters.

Developments to Watch

Judea & Samaria

- **Jenin bomb wounds an IDF officer** — A roadside charge detonated under troops on a counterterror operation in Jenin, severely wounding an officer and lightly wounding an NCO. The grade of device tells the story: while every senior decision-maker watches Iran and Lebanon, the cells in northern Samaria are building the buried-IED capability that turned Gaza into Gaza.
- **Dozens of rifles stopped at the Jordan Valley** — A joint IDF and Border Police operation seized dozens of weapons crossing into the Jordan Valley and detained the smuggler.

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **Five outposts decide the Lebanon clause** — The fight inside the deal narrows to five positions: the IDF posts that stood in Lebanon the day Roaring Lion opened, which Tehran wants vacated and Washington wants traded for a halt at the Yellow Line. Israel will hold them whatever Iran signs, and the moment the army stops at its deepest line is the moment Hezbollah tests whether a paper halt frees it to rebuild behind one.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **Four Iranian banks go dark** — Service at Bank Melli, Tejarat, Saderat, and the Export Development Bank failed across Sunday morning, with the regime's own outlets raising a cyberattack.
- **Kharg parked, the airborne staged** — Trump put the threatened seizure of Kharg Island "off the table for now," with the 82nd Airborne reported ready for the oil islands behind those three words. The ground option is the lever that reopens the war the hour the signing slips, and the regime negotiates knowing it.

Diplomatic & Legal

- **The mediators arrive at the G7** — The Mideast mediators join the June 15 to 17 summit in Canada alongside the leaders Washington needs to underwrite any Iran deal. No breakthrough is expected.

Home Front & Politics

- **The Jerusalem Faction promises the next shutdown** — The Faction closed Thursday with a warning that the disruption only escalates until the draft arrests stop. With combat soldiers still being detained as evaders and no statute behind the enforcement, the next call paralyzes the highways and

the rail again. Police who let the last shutdown cost its organizers nothing have already told them what the next one will cost.

That is the day. Trump wrote the terms of the stop and banked the revenue for Tehran, the mediators are glum on Gaza before the fall vote, and twenty-two foreign ministries signed a communique that proscribes nothing. All in all, more of the same.

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