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READER EDITION

June 17, 2026

ISRAEL BRIEF

Wednesday, June 17

Washington signs Iran's strait open and will not let Jerusalem read the page, while the draft fight cracks the coalition and the IDF keeps enforcing the clauses no one signed.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE The two registers belong in the same paragraph because British Jews are living them in the same week — writing the largest check in the charity's history while their dead are targeted on a memorial wall and their shuls keep fire extinguishers near the doors. This is a community that has read the Jewish Agency's referral numbers out of Britain, knows what a "city for all Londoners" costs at a synagogue threshold, and answered by funding Israeli soldiers who lost limbs instead of performing its own grief. Am Yisrael chai.

CLASSIFICATION

Reader Edition

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“Security is the beating heart of Israeli politics,” Moshe Arens wrote, and it remains true this week. The most consequential military decision of the round was made on a phone from Washington, the memorandum that binds Israel’s northern border will be signed Friday in Switzerland over Jerusalem’s request to read it first, and the coalition is dissolving over who carries the war’s burden at home. We have watched the decision to fire slide off Jerusalem’s desk all spring. This morning Israel is not even a reader of its own war’s terms — and the army keeps working on disarming across the fronts, because it has no other choice.

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Flash Brief

- **Iran deal:** Washington signs Friday in Switzerland and refuses Israel's request to read the fourteen-clause memorandum first. *See The War Today.*
- **Hormuz on paper:** The strait reopens on signature, stays mined forty to fifty days, and the IRGC keeps firing into it nightly. *See The War Today.*
- **Lebanon clause:** Trump offers Hezbollah's defeat to Syria as Iran, Washington, and Beirut read the withdrawal clause three incompatible ways. *See The War Today.*
- **Southern enforcement:** The IDF dismantles a Nablus weapons plant, kills two Gaza cell commanders, and seizes the drone-smuggling vehicles for the first time. *See The War Today.*
- **Zamir rebuked:** Netanyahu disciplines his Chief of Staff in cabinet over the pilots' letter exposing the canceled Iran strike. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Bnei Brak cleared:** Police break the Jerusalem Faction blockade on Route 4, and the coalition fractures over who to blame. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Draft law dead:** Netanyahu tells the haredi parties no majority exists for the Daycare Law, and Degel HaTorah warns no law means elections. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Hebron move:** Smotrich declares the 1997 Hebron Protocol abolished, and the Foreign Ministry contradicts him within the hour. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Gulf hedges:** Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, and Pakistan tighten toward accommodating a war-strengthened Iran, freezing the Accords in place. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Right at war:** Huckabee corrects Trump from a dig in Judea and Samaria as Levin demands the administration release the unread MOU. *See Israel and the World.*
- **South Lawn plot:** The FBI charges five in a cell that sorted its assassination targets by who took pro-Israel-lobby money. *See Israel and the World.*

FORCES dismantled a weapons plant in Nablus, uncovered five tons of Hezbollah explosives in the south, and staged armor toward the Wadi al-Hujayr line while the withdrawal clause was still being argued in Washington. At home the same loss of initiative reads as a coalition that has given up legislating the draft and is fighting instead over who to blame for clearing a highway.

The War Today

WASHINGTON SIGNS IRAN'S STRAIT BACK OPEN AND WILL NOT SHOW ISRAEL THE PAGE

Washington has refused Israel's request to read it before the signing. The fourteen clauses leaking through Al Arabiya and Reuters describe an immediate end to the war on all fronts, a naval blockade lifted, some twenty-four billion in frozen funds released, a three-hundred-billion-dollar private investment fund already more than half committed, and a nuclear question deferred to a

sixty-day second phase that leaves Iran's enrichment at the status quo until a final deal that the structure is built never to force. Trump authorized the toll-free reopening of Hormuz and the removal of the blockade, then clarified the strait reopens to commercial traffic Friday once the ink dries. The IRGC has fired drones at commercial shipping in the strait every night since Sunday's framework, all intercepted by the US Navy, while the same Navy runs scores of covert ship-to-ship oil transfers off Fujairah and Sohar to keep Gulf energy moving past a blockade the paper says is already gone. Trump's own CIA director warned him Iran may not intend to comply. Vance spent the last day in a media blitz selling the deal to American voters and to Israel.

ASSESSMENT

The capability question was settled on the tarmac last week and the trust question is being settled now at the photocopier — an ally that will not let Jerusalem read the document binding its northern border is not negotiating on Israel's behalf, and the refusal is the tell that the migration we have watched all spring, the decision to fire sliding off Jerusalem's desk, has reached the point where Israel is not even a reader of its own war's terms. Hormuz is the fact-versus-paper gap made literal: the strait reopens on signature and stays mined for forty to fifty days, the IRGC keeps launching into it nightly, and the US is smuggling oil through the back door of a blockade it is about to abolish on the front. The sixty-day window is the regime's safest approach to the line since the war began [no inspectors, no permitted Israeli strike, and a stockpile to be "downblended and destroyed at an appropriate time" that arrives the way the check is always in the mail]. A deal Trump's own intelligence and defense chiefs doubt, signed over the objection of the men who run his agencies, is an administration that has not convinced itself reaching for a signature anyway.

TRUMP OFFERS HEZBOLLAH TO SYRIA AS THE LEBANON CLAUSE IS READ THREE WAYS AT ONCE

Trump told the G7 that Israel has fought Hezbollah too long and killed too many, and floated handing the war to Syria — "if Israel can't do the job without killing everyone else, Syria should do the job" — while calling Lebanon a minor war and Beirut, per Israeli security officials, an effective no-strike zone for the IDF. Whether the memorandum forces an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon is contradicted in the same news cycle: Hezbollah says Iran assured it there will be no final nuclear deal without an Israeli pullout, a leaked clause lists exactly that withdrawal, and Israeli and US officials insist the deal touches no Lebanese ground Israel holds. A Lebanese deputy speaker described a multinational oversight committee of Washington, Riyadh, Doha and Tehran to verify a "comprehensive Israeli withdrawal," and Israel's delegation under Ambassador Leiter meets the Lebanese track in Washington next week. Underneath the paper the shooting held its rhythm: Hezbollah fired rockets at troops operating in the south, the Air Force destroyed the launcher and struck a suspicious vehicle, and drones hit the Mayfadoun town square three times, with Lebanese sources putting four dead near the security zone.

ASSESSMENT

Offering Hezbollah's defeat to the Syrian army is the permission problem migrating into farce — the same Washington that rations Israel's freedom to fire now proposes that the jihadists in Damascus finish the job Jerusalem is being told to stop, which is what it looks like when a president treats the survival of a terror army as a real-estate dispute over who knocks down the apartment block. Each party reads the withdrawal clause as the text it needs, and the version where Hezbollah pockets an Israeli pullout it never won on the battlefield is the one Tehran wrote into the assurances it handed its proxy. As we've tracked, the IDF will hold the security zone whatever the paper says, and a deal that hands Hezbollah a withdrawal through a multinational committee staffed by its own patron is the offer functioning as the refusal — the rifle stays, the line moves back, and the sixty days buy the reconstitution the strikes were meant to prevent.

THE SOUTHERN ENFORCEMENT WAR RUNS ON WHILE THE CAMERAS POINT NORTH

While the Iran signing absorbed the week, the IDF kept enforcing the disarmament clauses nobody signed. Forces located and dismantled a weapons-production facility in Nablus and eliminated two Hamas cell commanders in Gaza, and the police seized for the first time the vehicles used to smuggle drones into Gaza, a first-of-kind move against the smuggling infrastructure. The Navy is on high alert along the Mediterranean coast after nearly a thousand consecutive days patrolling Gaza's waters, with Israeli officials warning that Hamas is rebuilding its coastal surveillance and maritime-attack capacity under the ceasefire. At the G7, Egypt's Sissi pressed Israel to abandon the push to take 70 percent of Gaza — Netanyahu has the IDF past 60 and advancing the Yellow Line — and called again for a two-state settlement, with Washington reported to have blocked a fresh operation in the Strip.

ASSESSMENT

This is the war the headlines stopped covering the moment a signing got a date, and it is the only front where Israel still sets the terms — enforcement by elimination running straight through a truce because the disarmament clause was never going to be honored, the same group rebuilding the naval arm it lost while professing on paper to give up governing Gaza. The drone-smuggling vehicle seizure is the southern version of the Nablus facility: the buried-IED and maritime capabilities that turned Gaza into Gaza are being rebuilt in Judea and Samaria and off the coast at once, both going up while every senior decision-maker faced Tehran. Sissi can demand Israel stop at the Yellow Line whenever Hamas stops treating the line as the staging ground for the next October.

Inside Israel

POLICE CLEAR THE BNEI BRAK BLOCKADE AND THE COALITION FRACTURES OVER BLAME

Police declared an illegal assembly and cleared the Jerusalem Faction off the Geha interchange on Route 4 this morning with stun grenades and batons, after the Faction shut both directions near Bnei Brak through the commute and beat several drivers who left their cars to confront them. Within the hour Deri told Ben-Gvir to “wake up,” accusing the police of doing to Torah

learners what they would not do to the Kaplan anarchists. Ben-Gvir answered that Baharav-Miara “persecutes the haredim,” announced an urgent review of stun-grenade use, and threatened to strip the grenades from the police entirely. Porush demanded an emergency National Security Committee hearing on “discriminatory enforcement,” and the faction behind the blockade promised the morning was “a first step” with more coordinated actions to come, including a High Court petition over the police conduct. A poll taken after the riots found 44 percent of the public — and 48 percent of traditional voters — now more supportive of sanctions on evaders, against 18 percent more opposed. Underneath the street fight, the legislative collapse is the real event: Netanyahu told the haredi parties there is no majority for the Daycare Law, Degel HaTorah and Agudat Yisrael are warning that no law means elections, and their plenum boycott has now killed the coalition’s legislative agenda for a second straight day.

ASSESSMENT

The minister responsible for the police is blaming the Attorney General for what the officers under his command did this morning, which is a remarkable thing to watch a security minister do on the record. Strip the blame-trading and the morning confirms what we have tracked for weeks — ninety thousand men outside the system is what burden-not-shared looks like once it has been audited, and the absence of a statute leaves the street to set the price of every arrest. The Daycare Law is the tell the Torah-study Basic Law was not: the haredi parties will trade away the symbolic recognition, but a daycare subsidy for the families of men ignoring their call-up is the material thing they will dissolve the Knesset to protect [the burden question, priced to the shekel]. And the public is moving the other way from the street — every blocked highway hands the sanctions case the votes the coalition cannot afford weeks before an election.

✠ Dossier: *The Math Survives the Vote* — The Daycare Law collapse and the “no law means elections” warning are the dissolution arithmetic this Dossier works out in full — that the coalition’s haredi-draft impasse is governed by seat math and the Knesset-dissolution clock, not by the symbolic exemption statute, which is exactly why the parties trade away Torah-study recognition but will break the government over a daycare subsidy.

SMOTRICH DECLARES THE HEBRON ACCORD ABOLISHED, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES IT

Smotrich announced he had abolished the planning and zoning arrangements set under the 1997 Hebron Protocol governing the Jewish community, the Tomb of the Patriarchs, and the city’s Jewish heritage sites, framing it as undoing the accord with the Palestinian Authority and extending Israeli control across Judea and Samaria. The Foreign Ministry contradicted him in English within the hour, stating the Hebron Protocol “has not been annulled” and that the cabinet decision touches only planning authority for the Jewish community and heritage sites. The dispute is not semantic: under the 1997 protocol the Hebron Municipality holds most civil authority in H2 while Israel retains responsibility for Israeli residents, and the High Court has so far permitted the Supreme Planning Council to seize specific zoning powers only where the municipality obstructs a concrete project — the Tomb-of-the-Patriarchs

accessibility case being the precedent. A decision that reaches past that narrow ground to “abolish” the protocol would require Knesset primary legislation, not a planning order. The Palestinian Authority asked Washington to intervene.

ASSESSMENT

Smotrich and the Foreign Ministry are describing the same cabinet decision as two different things on purpose — the minister claiming the abolition to bank the sovereignty win, the ministry shrinking it to a zoning adjustment to keep it inside what the High Court already blessed. This is sovereignty by accumulation working as designed: the administrative act lands first, the legal characterization stays contested, and the Jewish deed on the ground compounds while the diplomats argue about what to call it. The risk is the gap between the announcement and the order. If the cabinet decision really is just the planning council taking powers the municipality has refused to exercise, it survives a petition; if it claims to undo a Knesset-ratified protocol by fiat, the legal guild gets handed the opening to freeze the whole move [and Smotrich will have priced a real gain against a headline he did not need].

NETANYAHU REBUKES HIS CHIEF OF STAFF OVER THE CANCELED IRAN STRIKE

Netanyahu publicly reprimanded Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir in the Security Cabinet after the air force commander, Tishler, sent a letter to his pilots describing the large strike wave on Iran that was halted roughly an hour before takeoff. “He should not have written that,” Netanyahu said. “It is a national mistake and harms our unity. It causes embarrassment with Trump.” The rebuke lands as the US-Iran framework moves toward formal signing in Switzerland on Friday, with Likud quietly scrapping a planned campaign push built around Netanyahu’s rapport with Trump after officials judged the deal had turned that rapport into a liability. Polling out the same morning has the prime minister, Likud, and the coalition bloc all in decline, Eisenkot gaining, and support for Trump inside Israel collapsing across three weeks — though Netanyahu still leads on prime-ministerial suitability.

ASSESSMENT

A prime minister disciplining his Chief of Staff in front of the cabinet, over a letter to pilots, names whose embarrassment the rebuke is actually managing — the president’s, not the nation’s. Netanyahu reached for unity because the relationship with the man whose phone call ended the operation is what the letter exposes. The disclosure documents what the coalition would rather the public not dwell on: the most consequential military decision of the round was made in Washington, and the air crews who were an hour from takeoff know it. The asset the coalition spent a decade building, Netanyahu as the man who manages the Americans, is now the line the opposition runs against him, and the polling says it is landing.

Israel and the World

THE GULF STARTS PAYING IRAN OFF AND THE ACCORDS FREEZE IN PLACE
Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey and Pakistan are tightening into a Sunni bloc that reads a war-strengthened Iran as a fact to be bought off rather than a threat to be balanced against, and the Gulf capitals are moving toward economic accommodation with Tehran on the assessment that a regime emerging from the war with an open strait, released funds and a paper that locks Israel out is the regime they will be living next to. The Abraham Accords are not expanding while Netanyahu holds the chair, the normalization track that two years of Fordow and the Lebanon line were supposed to widen instead frozen at its current membership, with Riyadh's freight already routed onto Erdogan's rail corridor and its security calculus now hedging toward the axis the strikes were meant to break.

ASSESSMENT

This is the bill for a deal Israel was not allowed to read — the leverage two nights of fire was supposed to win, handed back as a strait Iran tolls and funds Iran spends, and the neighbors drew the obvious conclusion before the ink dried. Gulf states do not pay protection to a loser. When Riyadh and Doha start treating Iran as the durable power on the board, the normalization Jerusalem spent the war chasing stops being available, because no Sunni capital signs a public alignment with Israel against an Iran it has just decided to accommodate [the Accords were always a bet that Israel was the safer patron to stand beside, and a memorandum that writes Israel out of the room is the answer]. The signing's deepest cost lands here, on the question of who in this region is still willing to be seen standing next to us.

HUCKABEE ANSWERS TRUMP'S "WITHOUT ME, NO ISRAEL" FROM A DIG IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA

The American pro-Israel right spent the day arguing with the president who claims to have saved Israel. From the Herodium, opening a heritage conference in Judea and Samaria, Ambassador Mike Huckabee inverted the line Trump delivered at the G7 — “Without me, there would be no Israel” — into “Without Israel, without the Jewish foundation, there would not be an America. We owe our very existence to what happened in this land.” Trump had paired his own claim with a warning that “Bibi has to be more responsible with respect to Lebanon,” and an undisclosed Washington-Tehran memorandum he announced Sunday but has not let anyone read. Mark Levin told his Fox audience to “release the damn MOU,” accusing the president of controlling the narrative on a deal struck after Israel hit Hezbollah. Vance, by his own forthcoming account, was warned by Charlie Kirk that anti-Israel sentiment on the right had at points curdled into open Jew-hate — and reportedly spent last night being interviewed by Megyn Kelly, who works that vein for a living.

ASSESSMENT

The fault line now runs straight through the administration the pro-Israel right helped elect. Huckabee used the most pro-Israel posting in the US government to correct his own president on whose existence is owed to whom [an ambassador does not freelance a rebuttal to the man who appointed him without reading the room first]. The unread MOU is the pressure point — a deal Tehran's mediators want kept quiet "until the right timing," a president telling Israel to ease off Lebanon, and a base that has learned to ask what it is not being shown. The vein Kelly and Carlson work is the one Vance is now courting for the midterms, and we have watched the right's drift long enough to know that a sitting vice president validating it on camera is the part that outlasts November.

THE WHITE HOUSE PLOT SORTED ITS TARGETS BY WHO TOOK AIPAC MONEY

The FBI charged five and identified twenty-three in a cell that planned to turn the UFC event on the South Lawn into a kill box on Trump's birthday — explosive drones over a crowd of 4,300 to drive a panicked stampede toward pre-positioned snipers, then a second wave on the White House gate. The alleged organizer, Tysen Proper, 19, of Ohio, spent his graduation-grant money on a bullpup rifle, an AR-style rifle, ceramic plates and ammunition, and built a target list filtered by a single criterion: lawmakers who had taken donations from the pro-Israel lobby. Senator Marsha Blackburn was singled out in his phone with the note that she "received money from the pro-Israel lobby." His co-conspirators ran the full conspiracy menu — Hitler praise, Epstein baby-sacrifice theories, anti-capitalist "billionaire" rage. His own mother called the police. Authorities say they found no foreign hand.

ASSESSMENT

This is the American picture the diaspora-security thread has been missing — not Tehran's contract network, which Toronto police tied again yesterday to the consulate and synagogue shootings, but a homegrown accelerationist cell that reached for "took AIPAC money" as the sorting key for an assassination deck [the pro-Israel donation as the filter, no Iranian handler required]. The partisan-sort we track at the vocabulary layer arrives here as a target-selection method: when "Zionist money" is the available shorthand for what is wrong with the country, the jump from primary-stage rhetoric to a sniper's range card is shorter than the institutions counting these incidents would like the count to show. The mother's phone call is the only thing in this story that worked as designed.

BRITAIN'S JEWS RAISE A RECORD £2.1 MILLION THE SAME WEEK A MEMORIAL WALL BURNS

Beit Halochem UK closed its annual London gala Monday at £2.1 million for Israel's disabled veterans, a record for the charity, which has now raised more than £54 million since 2012. The Board of Deputies wrapped a month of more than 150 events under the banner "Less Oy, More Joy," built to show British Jewish life as something other than a casualty count. It ran against the backdrop the community cannot put down: a man, Ali Fallahi, was charged with arson over a fire at the Golders Green memorial wall honoring victims of Hamas and the Iranian regime, and Jewish Women's Aid spearheaded a solidarity letter, signed by some eighty organizations, naming the Golders Green attack and the Finchley Reform Synagogue arson attempt.

ASSESSMENT

The two registers belong in the same paragraph because British Jews are living them in the same week — writing the largest check in the charity's history while their dead are targeted on a memorial wall and their shuls keep fire extinguishers near the doors. This is a community that has read the Jewish Agency's referral numbers out of Britain, knows what a "city for all Londoners" costs at a synagogue threshold, and answered by funding Israeli soldiers who lost limbs instead of performing its own grief. Am Yisrael chai.

Briefly Noted

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- *The JC*: A US appeals court let the Trump administration keep enforcing its sanctions on UN rapporteur Francesca Albanese, staying the injunction her family had won.
- *JNS*: Somaliland opened the eighth embassy in Jerusalem and its president collected the Friends of Zion Award the next night, with Mike Evans pledging to press Trump for formal US recognition — a recognition moving toward Jerusalem the same week six European governments move sanctions the other way.
- *Times of Israel*: Reza Pahlavi told a Commons committee in London that any agreement leaving the Islamic Republic intact will fail, two days before Washington signs one that does exactly that.
- *Jerusalem Post*: Canada pledged another \$100 million to UN and NGO Palestinian-aid channels within days of UNRWA terminating 70 Gaza staff over Hamas ties, taking Ottawa's total past half a billion.

Public Diplomacy & Media

- *Jewish News UK*: Iranian fans booed their own national anthem and chanted "Death to the Islamic Republic" at the World Cup opener in Los Angeles, smuggling pre-revolutionary flags past a FIFA ban.
- *JNS*: Rep. Dan Goldman declined Brad Lander's on-camera demand that he call Israel's war a "genocide" at their New York debate, both men Jewish, Lander running with Mamdani's backing — the "genocide" demand is now the loyalty test inside the Democratic primary.
- *JNS*: A Justice Department superseding indictment alleges a former Southern Poverty Law Center intelligence official steered \$1.2 million in donor funds to a neo-Nazi informant she shared a house and two bank accounts with, part of the DOJ's "manufacturing extremism" case.
- *JNS*: Code Pink is running a workshop series coaching parents and teachers to "challenge Zionism" and Holocaust education in K-12 classrooms, the anti-Israel campaign reaching down to the grade where the lesson is supposed to start.

Economy, Tech & Infrastructure

- *Jerusalem Post*: The government approved a national AI plan built on 100,000 GPUs, Negev data centers, and Project Spire, a US-Israel secure-compute base, naming Erez Askal as AI chief and projecting up to four million Israelis into reskilling.
- *Globes*: Kiryat Gat AI-chip firm Xsight Labs is raising \$300 million at a \$2.5 billion valuation, with Avigdor Willenz as founding investor and chairman.
- *Israel Hayom*: Mobileye announced its own US robotaxi service to compete head-to-head with Tesla and Waymo, moving from supplying the self-driving “brain” to owning the fleet, with a 100-vehicle launch in 2027 scaling toward 17,000 in five years.

Culture, Religion & Society

- *Israel Hayom*: A Haifa University and Columbia study finds Israeli psychological distress easing overall two and a half years after October 7, while acute-disorder risk stays concentrated among Gaza-envelope residents, reservists, and Arab citizens.
- *Times of Israel*: The Dan David Prize, founded by the late Israeli philanthropist Dan David, awarded \$300,000 each to nine mid-career historians and archaeologists, with the foundation framing the grants as a defense of the humanities against political pressure and gutted research budgets.
- *JTA*: The Jewish Lives biography series launched an AI chatbot that lets users interrogate figures like Einstein on Zionism, building the tool on its own library rather than the open web.

Developments to Watch

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **Armor stages deeper than the strikes** — IDF engineering vehicles and armor are moving toward Aitaroun, Bint Jbeil, and the Wadi al-Hujayr line, ground the air campaign has been hitting from above. The vehicles go in the same days the withdrawal clause is argued in Washington, and a bulldozer at Wadi al-Hujayr is the army answering the paper before the paper is signed.
- **Five tons of explosives under the truce** — Forces uncovered a Hezbollah cache holding some five tons of explosives in the south. The find dates the reconstitution the sixty-day window is built to protect, and every cache recovered now is one the next framework would have ordered Israel to stop looking for.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **Iran's high command ties its trigger to Lebanon** — The Khatam al-Anbiya headquarters, Iran's joint military command, accused Israel of 84 violations in the south and warned of a harsh response if IDF operations in Lebanon do not stop. The IDF struck Nabatieh and Maydun again yesterday, which means the trigger the regime named is being pulled nightly while the signing sits three days out. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **The “surprise strike” line under the framework** — IRGC channels are floating a possible surprise Iranian strike on Israel, the same day US intelligence told CNN the war handed Tehran the standing capability to close Hormuz at will. The regime is selling its public a deal while its uniformed arm rehearses the reason the deal collapses, and the gap between the two is the forty-day window the strait stays mined.
- **The Kurdish front turns kinetic both ways** — IRGC drones struck Kurdish separatist positions inside Iraq, days after reporting put the Mossad funneling captured weapons to Kurdish groups to keep the pressure on Tehran from within. The internal front the regime fears most is now trading fire in the week it most needs quiet at home.

Diplomatic & Legal

- **The Senate bolts the 2015 escape hatch** — The Senate defeated a procedural vote on an Iran war-powers resolution it had previously advanced, clearing the administration's path days before the Friday signing. The one congressional lever that could have forced the deal into the open just failed on the floor, and a president who says he “wouldn't mind” sending the text to a Congress that will not act against him loses nothing by the offer.
- **A French-British flotilla inherits Hormuz** — The naval mission France and Britain assembled to reopen the strait is ready to deploy once the ink dries. Minesweeping runs forty to fifty days whatever the memorandum says, which puts two European navies inside an Iranian chokepoint for six weeks while the IRGC keeps launching drones at the ships they are clearing for.
- **Slovenia moves the European column another notch** — Ljubljana is advancing an arms embargo and entry bans against Israel, the latest European capital to convert protest posture into state action. The measure lands the same week six governments move sanctions and Somaliland opens an embassy in Jerusalem, and the column moving against Israel is longer this week than the one moving toward it.

Home Front & Politics

- **Jerusalem prepares for the paper to fail** — Israeli officials told Maariv they assess the US-Iran framework is unlikely to hold and are building a new Iran strategy against its collapse. The defense establishment spent the war being told to stand down an hour from the runway, and it is now planning for the day the signing it was not allowed to read comes apart on schedule.
- **The Faction stages tomorrow's surprise** — Thousands of Gur Hasidim will mass near Military Prison 10 tomorrow afternoon, and the extremist Friedman faction that shut Route 4 this morning says it is planning to “surprise”

at a second site at the same hour. The morning's organizers promised this was a first step, and a faction that paid nothing for blocking the Geha interchange has no reason to stop short of the highways again.

The capability question was settled on the tarmac last week. Everything since is the trust question, and the answer keeps coming back the same way — an ally that will not let Jerusalem read the document binding its northern border is not negotiating on Israel's behalf, and the Gulf capitals drew the obvious conclusion before the ink dried. The army is, for its part, still setting terms on the ground, dismantling the caches and holding the line the next framework would order it to stop looking for. Whether the paper holds or comes apart on schedule, the war that decides the next decade is the quiet one in Nablus and off the Gaza coast, not the one getting a signature on Friday.

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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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