

Iran pushes, and Trump says IDF won't enter Beirut

President's order comes after Tehran said it would halt indirect talks with Washington

Liza Rozovsky and Reuters

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that no IDF troops will enter Beirut and Hezbollah will stop "all shooting" following "a very productive call" with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Lebanese group.

Trump added, "Any troops that are on their way have already been turned back." Earlier Monday, Israel was planning to carry out airstrikes in Beirut's southern suburbs, also known as the Dahiyeh. (See story, Page 2.)

"Likewise, through highly placed representatives, I had a very good call with Hezbollah, and they agreed that all shooting will stop," he said. "That Israel will not attack them, and they will not attack Israel."

Earlier Monday, the Iranian state news agency Tasnim said Tehran was halting indirect negotiations with the United States after Israel ordered its troops to push deeper into Lebanon, complicating diplomatic efforts to end three months of war.

According to Tasnim, which is linked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, Iran will hold no talks with the United States until its demands on the cessation of Israeli operations in Lebanon and Gaza are met.

U.S. President Donald Trump told an NBC reporter that he had not heard from Iran on any suspension of talks. The president added that he thinks the two countries have been "talking too much," and that "going silent would be very good."

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department spokesperson told Haaretz that Secretary Marco Rubio spoke both with Netanyahu and Lebanon President Joseph Aoun regarding the diplomatic efforts between the two countries. The spokesperson said that to advance the talks, the United States has proposed that Hezbollah stops its strikes at Israeli territory and in exchange, the IDF will not attack in Beirut.

27th soldier dies in Lebanon

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The spokesperson added that Tehran "wants to prolong the conflict in Lebanon so it can claim credit for 'saving the day'" and that Washington "does not expect Israel to absorb ongoing attacks on its civilians by a terrorist organization."

Talks between Israel and Lebanon are expected to resume in Washington on Tuesday. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the cease-fire between Tehran and Washington applies "unequivocally" across all fronts, including Lebanon, warning that violations in one arena constitute violations of the broader agreement. "Violation of the cease-fire on one front is a violation on all fronts," Araghchi said, adding that the United States and Israel would be responsible for the consequences of any breaches.

Mohsen Rezaei, adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, said Tehran "will not tolerate the increase of tension in Lebanon," adding that the patience of Iran's armed forces "has a limit."

Tasnim said Iran and the Resistance Front, which includes Yemen's Houthis, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Tehran's Shi'ite allies in Iraq, had set an agenda to completely block the strait and activate other fronts, including the Bab El Mandeb Strait, to "punish" Israel and its supporters. If the Houthis open a new front in the conflict, one obvious target would be the Bab El Mandeb Strait off the coast of Yemen, a shipping chokepoint and narrow passageway that controls

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The funeral for Adam Tzarfati in Rosh Ha'ayin. Tzarfati was one of two soldiers killed in Lebanon over the past day.

Tomer Appelbaum

Trump declares cease-fire as Hezbollah drones continue to kill Israeli conscripts

Analysis Amos Harel

U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday night that he had stopped a planned Israeli airstrike on Beirut's Dahiyeh neighborhood, and that on his orders, a renewed cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah would take effect. His announcement came after Israel had threatened to strike Dahiyeh and

Iran responded by threatening to attack Israel.

Israel issued its threats in response to a series of explosive drone attacks by Hezbollah on soldiers in southern Lebanon. It had hoped that putting pressure on Beirut would push Hezbollah into a corner and perhaps tie into the cease-fire

being negotiated between the United States and Iran in the Persian Gulf.

Trump said he had a "very productive call" with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as well as "a very good call with Hezbollah" via intermediaries, after which both sides decided to stop firing. His announcement was preceded by a significant escalation of the conflict in Lebanon, which had threatened to

spark renewed clashes in the Persian Gulf. Iran even announced Monday afternoon that it was halting its negotiations with Washington, in an attempt to prevent Israel from inflicting further damage on Hezbollah.

With the expansion of the ground maneuver beyond the Litani River in the central sector of Lebanon, the IDF has been sustaining additional fatalities. Six conscript soldiers have been killed and

dozens wounded in separate incidents over the last 10 days – in most of the cases caused by explosive drones.

Granted that Hezbollah has gradually withdrawn from the area occupied by the IDF's 36th Division, but the Lebanese militia group responded to the division's advance by increasing the scale and intensity of its drone attacks. Army

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High Court clears Gofman as Mossad chief despite affair involving teen

Chen Maanit and Michael Hauser Tov

A three-justice panel of the High Court of Justice issued a ruling Monday denying petitions challenging the appointment of Maj. Gen. Roman Gofman as the next director of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency.

A ceremony marking Gofman's assumption of office as the agency's director will be held on Tuesday.

Supreme Court Justice Ofer Grosskopf ruled that Gofman's conduct in the controversial conduct on the Mossad's part in its use of a teenager, Ori Elmakayes, which was cited by those challenging Gofman's appointment, did not reflect a lack of moral integrity on Gofman's part, "certainly

not one that would disqualify him from serving as Mossad head." Grosskopf also rejected the claim that Gofman abandoned had Elmakayes, who spent more than a year in prison. Elmakayes, whose case was first revealed by Haaretz in 2024, was recruited at

age 17 by soldiers serving under Gofman for an influence operation using Elmakayes' "World News" Telegram channel. The teen was interrogated by Israel's Shin Bet domestic security agency and remained in prison after Gofman denied involvement in the internal

military investigation into the case in 2022.

While Supreme Court Justice Alex Stein, much like Grosskopf, ruled that Gofman's actions in the Elmakayes case weren't evidence reflecting on his integrity, the presiding justice on the Supreme Court

panel, Daphne Barak-Erez, dissented, saying that a show-cause order and a temporary restraining order should have been issued to permit further examination into unresolved questions in Elmakayes' case.

In his ruling, Grosskopf said the claims that Gofman

knowingly conducted an operation using a minor or intentionally misled IDF officials regarding the involvement of IDF's 210th Division, which Gofman commanded, "were not substantiated by evidence presented to the [Senior Appointments Advisory] Committee." Grosskopf also said that although there is "no dispute that there were failures" in Gofman's con-

duct regarding the Elmakayes case and consequently, disciplinary action was taken against him at the time, "the failures don't involve issues of moral integrity."

Stein wrote that even though the collection of evidence by the senior appointments committee, which examines the integrity of

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Justices failed to grasp evil forces they face Yossi Verter Page 2

After Oct. 7, a surge in American and British converts to Judaism



Rabbi Gabriel Botnick

Ithamar Handelman Smith

Rabbi Shimon ben Lakish declared: "A proselyte is more precious in the sight of the Holy One, blessed be He, than those who stood at the foot of Sinai."

LONDON — Julia, my wife, began her official conversion process to Judaism without my knowledge. A few weeks after October 7, she told me she had enrolled in a Judaism course at North London's liberal Belsize Square Synagogue. When I asked her why she had taken the course, she explained that she had enrolled with the intention of doing some in-depth study of Judaism, beyond what she already knew. And she knew plenty, much more than the average



Painting of Naomi with Ruth the Moabite and Orpah by Henry Nelson O'Neil.

Royal Collection

secular Israeli Jew. Julia was born to an Anglican Christian family in Nottinghamshire. Until she was accepted to study music at Durham University and at

King's College London, she had never met anyone Jewish. But perhaps someone was turning the wheels after all, as life led Julia Smith to become the British cultural

attaché in Israel in the mid-2000s. Then, at some party on some roof near Tel Aviv's Rothschild Boulevard, we met. It was love at first sight. I instantly realized I wanted to spend the rest of my life with her, but I never asked her to convert to Judaism.

I won't lie – as someone from a family of ultra-Orthodox origins, I encountered some difficulties with the extended family after I proposed to Julia. Some relatives wouldn't speak to me and regarded me as a Jew who had strayed. But the Judaism that I believe in rejects outright any form of missionary activity. I believed that, if Julia ever wanted to make this crazy, demanding, courageous move, it had to come from her, as "Converts are not accepted in the days of the Messiah" (A Talmudic saying meaning that conversion must come from sincere commitment, not convenience or self-interest).

But the times were far from the days of the Messiah. These were the days after October 7, and something had changed in Julia, even though she found it hard to pinpoint what it was. Perhaps it was the wish to

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'Danger to democratic system'

Court president warns of efforts to undermine election results

Chen Maanit

Supreme Court President Isaac Amit warned Monday that deepfakes and other forms of fake content could erode public trust in election results and pose a threat to democratic institutions, as advances in artificial intelligence make it increasingly difficult to distinguish between authentic and fabricated material.

Speaking at the Israel Bar Association conference in Eilat on Monday, Amit warned, "If everything can be faked, why believe anything? This poses a danger to the very existence of election procedures and the democratic system."

Amit elaborated on the challenges that fake content presents to the justice system, citing former Supreme Court Justice Uzi Vogelmann in his capacity as chairman of the Central Elections Committee. Vogelmann had warned that "deepfake content could undermine public belief that there is any truth in elections at all."

According to Amit, "The concern raised by Justice Vogelmann – years before artificial intelligence became available at the click



A Haredi protest on Monday.

Itay Cohen

of a button – is no longer science fiction."

Alongside these warnings, Amit stressed the judiciary's commitment to its role. "We will not be afraid, nor will we rest, nor will we fear anyone. We will continue to guard the rule of law and the values of the Jewish and democratic State of Israel."

The Supreme Court president also addressed growing hostility toward judges and the judicial system by public figures, including Knesset members and government ministers.

"We are witnessing references to judges in dismissive language," he said. "Serving

and retired judges are subjected to daily harassment. Every time they go out in public, they risk derogatory shouts or their vehicles being blocked [...] There are also those who seek to disrupt legal proceedings by directing offensive calls toward litigants and their representatives."

Shortly after the speech, Justice Minister Yariv Levin sharply criticized Amit.

"Justice Amit harbors deep contempt for vast segments of the public," Levin said. "With arrogance, he tramples the will of the

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