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## ISRAEL NEWS

*A collection of the week's news from Israel*  
*From the Bet El Twinning / Israel Action Committee of*  
*Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation*

### Commentary...

#### The '12-Day War' By Fiamma Nirenstein

It may take time before the world fully understands the magnitude of what happened during the "12-Day War," but the implications are already clear in Jerusalem, Washington, and—most notably—in Tehran.

What unfolded was not just another round of Middle East violence. It was, in strategic terms, one of the most consequential Israeli victories since the Six-Day War in 1967. A nation of 10 million decisively dismantled the nuclear ambitions of a regime of 90 million—a regime that had spent decades preparing for a day of reckoning and lost.

On the surface, the headlines focused on tragedy: The rocket that struck Beersheva, killing and wounding families even inside shelters. Iran's mullahs, humiliated but defiant, issued theatrical declarations of victory. But behind their bombast is the truth: The regime has been dealt a crippling blow, one that has cost it billions, shattered its military infrastructure, and left its nuclear program in ruins.

Even as U.S. President Donald Trump, boarding a helicopter for NATO, reportedly quipped about Israel and Iran, "They don't know what the f\*\*k they're doing," Israel did what it always does when survival is on the line: It acted.

A ceasefire had been in place. But when it was violated—again—Israel responded. It had done so before. In November, when Hezbollah fired rockets during a truce, Israel hit back with 40 strikes. Hezbollah has remained silent ever since.

This time, after a direct call between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Trump, Israeli jets turned around mid-mission following a symbolic strike on Tehran's radar. It was a show of restraint but also a signal: Don't test us again!

Beyond the headlines, however, a historic achievement emerged. Iran has lost its path to the bomb. That was Netanyahu's core objective—pursued not just for years, but for decades. With the help of key strategists like Ron Dermer, Israel executed one of the most precise and disciplined operations in its history.

Not a single Israeli jet was downed. Not a single airman lost. Thousands of kilometers from home, Israel destroyed missile factories, air-defense systems and the nuclear development infrastructure itself.

Working with the Mossad, Israel eliminated entire networks of scientists, military officers and technicians tied to the nuclear program. Evin Prison, where the regime tortured its dissidents, was struck. So was the state-run television complex.

And behind the scenes, America was there all along.

For months, Washington denied involvement. Analysts predicted that Trump had politically abandoned Netanyahu. But when the moment came, American B-2 bombers dropped bunker-busting bombs on three major nuclear sites, while U.S. submarines launched 30 Tomahawk missiles to finish the job. The damage was devastating—and undeniable.

No matter what Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, intends to do now, his options are gone. The nuclear infrastructure is not recoverable in the short term. And his regime—hollowed out from within—is running out of time.

The real power to change Iran's future now lies with its people. For the majority of Iranians who despise the regime, this moment opens a door. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' grip on power has been broken. Its international terror apparatus—Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and the Syrian dictatorship—has been decapitated or degraded.

The winds have changed. Trump and Netanyahu are poised to solidify one of the most consequential alliances for peace and prosperity in modern history. The Abraham Accords may now expand.

Europe, watching Iran falter, may begin to recalibrate. And Hamas, isolated and reeling, could be next.

In Israel, life is beginning to return to normal. Children are back on playgrounds. Families are venturing out. Shops are reopening. There is one dream

that has not faded: To see the 20 living hostages come home and the remains of the 30 others brought to Israel for burial.

As Israel begins to breathe again, the surviving architects of Oct. 7, 2023—those who thought the Jewish state would hesitate or fracture—are surely realizing the full weight of their miscalculation.

They gambled on fear. Instead, they awakened a people with resolve. (JNS Jun 25)

#### The Hypocrisy of the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Norway By Lt. Col. (res.) Maurice Hirsch

The speed of developing events in the Middle East often means that substantial events are quickly dropped from the media cycle. However, some of the events have long-lasting repercussions, and after some of the dust settles, they deserve further attention.

The recent decision of the governments of the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Norway to impose sanctions on Israeli Cabinet ministers Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir, just days before Israel's monumental attack on Iran, is one of those events.

Whether you agree or disagree with the opinions of Smotrich and Ben-Gvir, it is impossible to ignore the hypocrisy of those governments.

Explaining the move, the joint statement of the governments said they made the decision because Ben-Gvir and Smotrich "have incited extremist violence and serious abuses of Palestinian human rights. These actions are not acceptable. This is why we have taken action now—to hold those responsible to account."

While pretending to focus on actors who promote "extremist violence" and "hold those responsible to account," the deceit of these decisions is glaring.

Commonly known as the Palestinian Authority's "Pay-for-Slay" policy for three decades, the PA and its leadership have openly run the most elaborate policy to pay financial rewards to terrorists. The policy costs the PLO-PA hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

Terrorists have cited the terror reward payments as a substantial driving force behind terror activities. The funds paid by the PLO-PA to the terrorists did not stop with them alone. Rather, on many occasions, they were used to fund more terror.

This is not a clandestine policy; it is entrenched in a PA law from 2004 and the whole world knows about it. PA leader Mahmoud Abbas is not only personally responsible for the entire policy but has, in fact, repeatedly increased the terror reward payments.

Responding to criticism of the policy—which never came from the hypocritical Brits, Australians, Canadian, New Zealanders or Norwegians—Abbas even openly told the world, as exposed by Palestinian Media Watch, that even if the PA is left with just one penny, he would pay it first to the terrorists.

This was not merely posturing. Abbas put his proverbial money where his mouth is and prioritized paying the terror rewards to terrorists over paying salaries to PA teachers and doctors, and even over cancer treatments for Palestinian children.

Since this policy fundamentally undermines any prospect of peace and obviously drives "extremist violence," one could ask if the U.K., Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Norway took any steps to sanction those involved. The answer is no.

In fact, instead of sanctioning the Palestinian leaders for their nefarious policy, the now sanctimonious governments sanctioning Smotrich and Ben-Gvir have donated hundreds of millions of British pounds, Australian, New Zealand and Canadian dollars and Norwegian kroner to the PA and its leadership.

Since money is fungible, through their aid—whether directly or

indirectly—the Brits, Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians and Norwegians, have partnered with the PA to reward terrorists for murdering Jews.

But the hypocrisy does not end there. The second part of the explanation released by the governments said, “We will strive to achieve an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the immediate release of the remaining hostages by Hamas, which can have no future role in the governance of Gaza, a surge in aid and a path to a two-state solution.”

While it is of course correct to negate any future involvement of Hamas in the governance of Gaza, the sanctimonious governments conveniently “forget” that it is the PA, led by Abbas, that claims that Hamas is a legitimate “Palestinian faction” and demanded that Hamas participate in the last PA elections held in 2006. The result was a Hamas landslide victory.

According to every Palestinian opinion poll, if Abbas makes good on his recent promise to French President Emmanuel Macron and holds elections, Hamas will win again.

A recent Palestinian poll showed that 50% of Palestinians believe that Hamas was right to carry out the Oct. 7, 2023, massacre. In Judea and Samaria, under the PA, support stood at 59%. This sentiment is a direct result of the daily incitement and promotion of terror, not only by Hamas, but more dominantly from the PLO-PA.

In these circumstances, the question begs, what “two-state solution” are these governments promoting? The answer is simple: A terror-supporting state that openly showcases its drive to destroy Israel.

The reality is that while professing to oppose “extremist violence,” in the eyes of the Brits, Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians and Norwegians, only the Jews are at fault.

Smotrich and Ben-Gvir are just low-hanging fruit, since they do not shy away from expressing their rejection of any option to empower genocidal Palestinian terrorists and reject the possibility of creating a Palestinian state that will, as repeatedly confessed and promised, carry out the Oct. 7 massacre over and over again.

Try as they will to present a bona fide explanation for their decision, the truth of the matter is that not only do these governments support the “extremist violence” of the Palestinians, they also fuel and fund it.

Their decision to sanction Smotrich and Ben-Gvir has nothing to do with honestly fighting terror and promoting a “two-state solution”—and everything to do with placating the Palestinian terrorists who seek to murder Jews and destroy Israel. (JNS Jun 26)

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## **The ‘Confluentiality’ of Progressivism and Anti-Zionism**

By Yisrael Medad

Being that confluence is a biological term, as it refers to the percentage of a culture dish’s surface that is covered by adherent cells, I find myself employing “confluentiality” as a newly created term to describe the flowing or blending together of the thinking, rhetoric and performance of a new breed of Jewish anti-Zionists, and their radical progressive outlook and politics. These are the people who refuse to face the truth while never admitting an error.

Their slogan is, “Abolish Zionism” or, in its Iranian version, “Eliminate the Zionist regime,” has been sounded. It is not that states have a right to exist; it is rather that people do. And so, as the cloud-cuckoo-land theorizing proposes, while “a Jewish state has become the dominant form of Zionism ... it is not the essence of Zionism.” What is the “essence of Zionism is a Jewish home in the land of Israel ... not a Jewish state but a Jewish society, a Jewish home.”

How is that “home” to survive? Throughout the centuries, Jews have succeeded in fashioning vibrant Jewish societies in Babylon, Persia, Egypt and Germany, to name a few locations, and yet the survival of Jews was not assured, at least not adequately.

Zionism, however much Jewish anti-Zionists deny and seek to disprove, is Judaism. The first Jew listened to a call to leave his home and trek to a land wherein he and his progeny would become a nation. Jews, already recognized by Pharaoh as a nation, exited Egypt and their status as slaves with their end goal being a national homeland—their “native land”—as Moses explained to his father-in-law. Twice expelled and denied national independence, they returned from all over

the lands of dispersion and exile.

All this history is not fanciful. It is attested to by documents left by non-Jews and Jews—recorded history in stone, papyrus and parchment. It cannot be ignored or explained away as some sort of European-based settler colonialism that developed only in response to antisemitism.

This inverse positioning of history in the past 150 years rings hollow. Yet they persist and attempt, time and again, to reconfigure a “good” argument from the left to counter any justification for Zionism.

Take, for example, Shane Burley who writes, while trying to downplay the antisemitism from the left, that there is a “coherent campaign” that claims “that anti-Zionism (and any criticism of the movement for a Jewish state) is a covert form of antisemitic hate, once religious or ethnic and now political.” It is “an article of faith.” He argues that the idea that “a militarized, ethnocratic state in historic Palestine is categorically in the interest of all Jews.” Meaning, Zionism is actually the Jews’ worst enemy.

His logic continues in that “Israel is the least safe place on the planet to be a Jew.” Moreover, “Israeli apartheid has never proven to deliver Jewish safety, but instead benefits a class who profits from colonial exploitation.” Little safety is built since Israel is imperialistic: “Jews have always been safer in societies that are cosmopolitan and democratic, when nationalism gives way to pluralism, and when Jews build alliances with other people facing marginalization and oppression.”

I would argue that those very alliances being built by liberal and progressive Jews are what not only lead to assimilation and loss of genuine Jewish identity, but also embolden those forces to attack Jewish ideas, then Jewish institutions, and then, the Jews themselves.

I recently spoke with someone close who lives in Manhattan who related how twice this individual was approached—once by a man and the other time by a student couple. Attracted by the open display of a Jewish Star of David pendant, they attempted to engage on the issue of Gaza, and when rebuffed, became abusive, menacing and even threatening, both verbally and in making hostile motions.

In a book he has published, Burley presents the progressive, intersectional approach, saying the real danger is from right-wing nationalism, and that standing in solidarity with Palestinians and forging coalitions across what he thinks are the “needed communities” will overcome the politics of division and fear. I think the almost exact opposite. I think the danger to Jews comes from all corners and that left-wing antisemitism—from Marx to Soviet Russia, and with too many Jews involved—is the most irrational and, therefore, most egregious threat since it ignites an array of ethnic, cultural and religious groups to hate Jews than the antisemitism of the right.

Burley himself displays some irrationality in an interview in Jacobin, an American Socialist magazine based in New York, where he discusses the subject of Jewish anti-Zionists who have a long history of their “politics ... embedded deeply within their Jewish identity” with Benjamin Balteser. He does so with barely disguised admiration for “how Jews in both the Old Left and the New Left convened their sense of Jewish identity, how they understood and responded as Zionism emerged ... and how this model of Jewishness has found its continuity in the radical Jewish activism attempting to halt the genocide in Gaza.”

Is their Jewishness deeply embedded, or have they corrupted Jewish values, rearranged them just to be fashionable and paraded them out on a walkway of artificiality?

And who are they? He lists “the Jewish section of the Communist Party, the Jewish labor movement, the Jewish component of the Jewish Left and SDS ... neo-Bundist Jewish New Left organizations,” most of whom have directly or otherwise facilitated not only an ethereal form of antisemitic thinking but the erasure of Jewish culture, language and ritual, including not a few murders of Jews by Communists dictatorships or through the actions of Arab terrorists they glorify and support.

On Sept. 1, 2020, I wrote here that Jewish “progressives, in lending their support to the radical movements we witness rampaging through America’s streets, in identifying with their goals and, most

importantly, in subjugating the interests of Jews to these, they increase not only the probability of Jewish community debilitation but in physical attacks on Jewish institutions as well. Physical attacks on Jews is the next stage.” I do not think events have disproved my prognosis.

In 1910, Jabotinsky wrote of a joint May Day march by Socialist workers in Vienna:

“A group of Jewish workers and apprentices from the Poale Zion party dared to take part in the celebration. They marched through the city with their red banners, the banners had Jewish slogans on them, and they sang Jewish songs. They thought that it was not a sin, since the Germans had German slogans and the Czechs had Czech slogans and songs. But when they showed up at the general Lokal in the Prater Park, one of the editors of the Arbeiter-Zeitung, who was also the organizer of the festival, approached them and ordered them either not to sing the Jewish songs or to leave. ‘Otherwise,’ he added, ‘I cannot guarantee ...’ They left.”

That they had to leave has been repeated many times since, all over the world. What we are required to do, ourselves, is to ask where Burley’s enthusiasm will leave us tomorrow. (JNS Jun 26)

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### **Trump Sets Out to ‘Save Bibi Netanyahu’ with Bombshell Call to Drop All Charges** By Alex Traidman

Less than a week after dropping the world’s most powerful non-nuclear bombs on the Fordow nuclear facility—an existential threat to Israel’s security—U.S. President Donald Trump has now dropped a bomb on Israel’s legal establishment—an existential threat to Israel’s ability to function as a democracy.

In a lengthy bombshell post on his Truth Social platform, Trump insisted that the corruption trials that have been following Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are a “WITCH HUNT” and are “politically motivated ... in order to do him great harm.”

Trump stated that Netanyahu “has done so much for the State,” and that “there is no one that I know who could have worked in better harmony with the President of the United States, ME, than Bibi Netanyahu.

“Netanyahu’s trial should be CANCELLED, IMMEDIATELY, or a Pardon given to a Great Hero. ... THIS TRAVESTY OF ‘JUSTICE’ CAN NOT BE ALLOWED!”

The post doused ice-cold water on the firestorm of articles by mainstream U.S. sources and left-wing Israeli media over the past months that have cast doubt as to whether Trump was steadfastly supporting Israel, or insisting that Netanyahu was ruining ties with the most supportive U.S. administration Israel has ever had.

To the contrary, there could not be a friendlier gesture by an American president.

Particularly, a president who knows firsthand the tribulations Netanyahu has faced, as a head of state under a politicized criminal investigation.

For years, the Israeli left has wanted Netanyahu out of office by hook or by crook. And when hook didn’t work, after Israeli citizens incorrectly voted for Netanyahu in election after election, the left turned to its elitist-controlled state prosecution and court system to attack Netanyahu by crook.

Announcements that the prosecution first was about to “investigate” Netanyahu, and then to “indict” Netanyahu, each came just weeks before elections during Israel’s deadlocked multiple campaign cycle. The announcements were specifically designed to convince Israeli voters that they were voting for a criminal. Yet, the plurality of Israeli voters refused to be convinced. That did not stop the prosecution from pressing on.

The charges of bribery and breach of trust have proven themselves to be an abject disaster for the prosecution. After naming more than 200 witnesses in an attempt to prove that Netanyahu is a criminal, the court has forced the prosecution to change its charge sheet on three separate occasions. In the U.S., each would represent grounds for a mistrial.

After the prosecution finished its examination in the trial, the court explicitly stated that there was zero case for bribery—the most severe charge. Instead of dropping the charge, the prosecution insisted that

the case would be proven during the defense’s presentation.

Meanwhile, the trial has continued, with the court forcing Netanyahu to testify for nearly two full days a week, and to do so during wartime, when Israel has been fighting for existence.

In the lesser charges, the prosecution accuses Netanyahu of breach of trust for accepting as much as \$230,000 in gifts from his longtime friends, including as Trump stated in his post “cigars, a Bugs Bunny doll, and numerous other unfair charges.”

Much of the “evidence” brought in the charges against Netanyahu was collected in a wider witch hunt against Netanyahu’s associates. Furthermore, the state’s witnesses against Netanyahu were coerced and blackmailed to testify.

In America, any product of this type of prosecutorial misconduct is referred to as “fruit of the poisonous tree,” evidence that is tainted by illegality and inadmissible in court.

In Israel, the prime minister by nature already has to spend much of his time fending off constant coalition crises and routine no-confidence motions brought by the opposition. On top of that, the court has forced Netanyahu to spend time not only testifying, but preparing for a trial.

In forcing Netanyahu to stand trial, the court is prohibiting the prime minister from dedicating the necessary attention to the affairs of state and war. The court understands this, and the attorney general has suggested she could use the trial as grounds for declaring the prime minister incapable of functioning and ordering his removal from office. Meanwhile, Israeli law is explicit that a prime minister is not required to resign while under trial, and even if convicted, until all legal appeals are exhausted.

The very fact that Netanyahu could competently run a multifront war for Israel’s very survival, with physical and diplomatic battlefronts, on top of his intense domestic political and legal challenges, is a true testament to his greatness as Israel’s longest-serving prime minister.

As Trump wrote, “Bibi and I just went through HELL together, fighting a very tough and brilliant longtime enemy of Israel, Iran, and Bibi could not have been better, sharper, or stronger in his LOVE for the incredible Holy Land.”

In coming to his defense, Trump is making it known that he clearly believes Israel is stronger with Netanyahu in power, and that the U.S.-Israel relationship is stronger with Netanyahu in office—at least as long as Trump is the president.

For the left, which has tried so vehemently to get Netanyahu out of office over the last five years, Trump’s statement represents a massive blow. It is a direct validation to Israel’s voters that they have chosen correctly time after time, and that Trump does not wish for one second to see Netanyahu resign over the failures that led to Oct. 7.

Yet many in Israel are now crying that Trump is interfering with Israel’s domestic politics. Nothing could be further from the case.

To the contrary, Trump is throwing his full support behind the people’s choice, behind a national leader who has won more free and fair democratic elections than any other world leader. And he wants to see Netanyahu unshackled by the political witch hunt that has handcuffed his efforts to address Israel’s greatest challenges and opportunities.

Furthermore, in overtly supporting Netanyahu, Trump is correcting the misdeeds and direct meddling of the Obama and Biden administrations.

Back in March, the U.S. House Judiciary and Foreign Affairs committees launched an investigation into six Israeli and American organizations that received federal funding during the Biden administration that the committees allege may have been used to “undermine the standing of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu” during national protests against the government’s proposed judicial reforms in the summer of 2023.

Those protests, which included calls by left-wing Air Force pilots and reservists not to show up for duty if called by the government to defend the country, sent direct signals to Israel’s enemies—including Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran—that Israel was vulnerable to attack. The protests proved to be extremely harmful to Israel’s national security. It is not a stretch to conclude that they were one of the factors that led

to the nearly two-year war that Trump is now helping Israel navigate to its conclusion.

In a bid to investigate how U.S. funds were channeled into the protest movement, Rep. Jim Jordan, chair of the Judiciary Committee, and Rep. Brian Mast, chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, sent a letter to the organizations, accusing the Biden administration of using government funding to “harm Israel’s democratically elected government.”

“According to reports, the Biden-Harris administration directed American taxpayer money to certain Israeli entities in a manner intended to undermine Israel’s democratically elected government,” the letter stated. “The use of federal grants in this way not only jeopardizes the U.S.-Israel relationship but also violates basic civil rights protections in both countries. Furthermore, the misuse of federal grant money could, in some cases, constitute a criminal offense.”

According to the allegations, the Biden administration, through the State Department and USAID, has directed at least \$4.8 million directly—and tens of millions indirectly—to Israeli NGOs involved in efforts to oppose Prime Minister Netanyahu’s government.

“USAID and the State Department have even provided direct support to Hamas and other terrorist groups. Between 2007 and 2024, USAID and the State Department transferred at least \$122 million to NGOs linked to designated terrorist organizations. Many of these groups have openly expressed antisemitic rhetoric and incited violence against Jews,” the lawmakers charged.

In addition to the funding, the Biden administration led a public campaign of open statements by surrogates, and leaks citing anonymous senior sources, alleging that President Biden was fed up with Netanyahu, and that Israel should hold early elections barely a year and a half after Netanyahu’s right-wing camp won a definitive victory over the Israeli left.

In an interview with MSNBC in February 2024, Hillary Clinton, former secretary of state under President Obama, stated that “Netanyahu should go. He is not a trustworthy leader. It was on his watch that the [Oct. 7, 2023], attack happened. He needs to go, and if he’s an obstacle to a ceasefire, if he’s an obstacle to exploring what’s to be done the day after, he absolutely needs to go.”

Just a month later, in a speech given from the floor of the U.S. Senate, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, who has long-declared himself the “shomer” or guardian of Israel, said that Netanyahu was a “major obstacle to peace.”

“Prime Minister Netanyahu has lost his way by allowing his political survival to take precedence over the best interests of Israel,” Schumer, adding that “Netanyahu has also weakened Israel’s political and moral fabric through his attempts to co-opt the judiciary.”

Schumer stated his belief that “a new election is the only way to allow for a healthy and open decision-making process about the future of Israel, at a time when so many Israelis have lost their confidence in the vision and direction of their government.”

In a post on Truth Social this week, Trump let his feelings for his fellow New Yorker be known, referencing the “Great Palestinian Senator, Cryin’ Chuck Schumer, whose career is definitely on very thin ice!”

In calling for Israel’s judiciary to drop the charges against Netanyahu, Trump is not only correcting the misdeeds of his predecessors, he is also calling for Israel’s democracy and resulting national security to be strengthened.

Aside from the unjust politicized prosecutions, both the court and the attorney general have long been interfering in governmental affairs. Most recently, the legal oligarchy attempted to block Netanyahu’s removal of Shin Bet internal security service chief Ronen Bar.

Bar was the acting security chief during the breach of Israel’s border with Gaza on Oct. 7, 2023. And Netanyahu has repeatedly charged that Bar did not reach out to Netanyahu until 6:29 a.m., after the attack was well underway.

Furthermore, according to Netanyahu, Bar was undermining the prime minister’s directives with regards to hostage negotiations, and backchanneling with the U.S. government. Netanyahu similarly fired his defense minister, Yoav Gallant, for the same insubordinate behavior.

The legal oligarchy’s efforts came despite Israeli law explicitly stating that “The government is entitled to end the service of the head of the Shin Bet before the end of his term of office.”

Yet the Supreme Court, sitting as the High Court of Justice, insisted that Netanyahu should not be permitted to fire Bar, because the Shin Bet had just launched an investigation into whether Netanyahu’s associates took illicit funds to promote Qatari interests while serving in public posts, and therefore Netanyahu would have a conflict of interest in dismissing the head of the security service. Netanyahu has charged that the investigation was launched specifically to give the attorney general a lever to block the dismissal.

Meanwhile, Bar has since resigned of his own accord, over his sense of responsibility for the Oct. 7 massacre. Yet even still, the court has been stalling Netanyahu’s ability to appoint David Zini as the head of the security agency—this during wartime.

The High Court is not only interfering in the functioning of the executive branch of government, it is also interfering in the national security of the state, as Israel presently has to manage with an interim head of the Shin Bet.

Trump is providing clarity after years of lies and distortions from the Israeli legal system, the Israeli left, the media and the Biden administration.

Netanyahu “has been going through this ‘Horror Show’ since May of 2020,” Trump wrote.

The prosecution and the court could do the right thing once and for all by dismissing the charges. They are unlikely to do so. Yet, as Trump correctly noted, there is another pathway to ending this prosecutorial disaster and restoring justice to the “great hero” Netanyahu.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog can put this crisis to bed once and for all by issuing a presidential pardon. Herzog was previously a rival who ran against Netanyahu in the 2015 elections. Furthermore, during that elections, the State Department, under President Obama, directed funds and political consultants to the V15 movement set up to aid Herzog’s campaign.

Yet, Herzog has always fashioned himself as a moderate and a unifier, whose father, Chaim Herzog, was also president of Israel, and whose grandfather Yitzchak HaLevi Herzog was Israel’s first chief rabbi.

If Trump’s bombshell Truth Social post leads to a pardon, or to the dropping of charges, it would represent a vindication of Netanyahu’s innocence, as well as of his tremendous accomplishments as prime minister. Chief among those accomplishment is the daring and successful destruction of Iran’s nuclear program, in what Trump has aptly termed the 12-Day War.

Yet more importantly, it would pave the path for Netanyahu and Trump to focus on resolving the urgent refugee crisis in Gaza, with the resettlement of willing Gazans outside the wartorn Strip. And then, the fulfillment of Netanyahu and Trump’s joint vision of peace across the Middle East, with the signing of normalization agreements for Israel with Saudi Arabia and other Muslim-majority nations.

Netanyahu deserved Trump’s post irrespective of the stunning victory over Iran. Yet, with his bombing of the Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan nuclear reactors, Trump has earned near-limitless credit with the Israeli public. Trump’s bold actions not only ended Iran’s nuclear program once and for all, they also forced Iran to beg for a ceasefire, bringing the conflict to a close in just 12 days. Israelis will be forever grateful for Trump’s actions, and for his clarity of vision.

Trump already had much credit following his move of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, recognition of Israeli sovereignty in the Golan Heights, and many other pro-Israel moves.

Let’s see whether the court or Israel’s president will permit the greatest friend Israel has ever had in the White House to cash in some of that well-earned credit, by restoring justice and unshackling Israel’s indispensable leader.

In making his plea, Trump insists that “It was the United States of America that saved Israel, and now it is going to be the United States of America that saves Bibi Netanyahu.” (JNS Jun 26)