

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF LIKUD

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AFL's Bi-annual Leadership Mission to Israel June 16-19, 2019

AFL's Leadership Mission to Israel is finally here and we're excited about our fantastic itinerary and slate of Israel's leaders with whom we are scheduled to meet. [Click for Mission Itinerary](#)

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Opening Dinner with Brig.- Gen. (res.) Yossi Kupperwasser, fmr Director General of the Israel Ministry of Strategic Affairs and head of the Research Division of IDF Military Intelligence
AFL's Mission to Israel June 2017

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Special Cabinet meeting on the Golan Heights

At a festive meeting on the Golan Heights, the Israel Government, today, approved the establishment of a new community on the Golan Heights, to be named "Trump Heights" (Ramat Trump), after US President Donald Trump. US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman also attended the meeting.

Following the meeting a ceremony was held to unveil the sign for the new community with the participation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Government ministers.

Prime Minister Netanyahu at the start of the festive Cabinet meeting:

"This is an historic day for us. We are going to do two things: Establish a new community on the Golan Heights, something which has not been done for many years. This is an act of settlement and of Zionism of the first order. The second thing is to honor our friend, a very great friend of the State of Israel, President Donald Trump, who recently recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. He is the first international leader to have done so. He tore the mask off this hypocrisy, which does not recognize what is self-evident.

Menachem Begin said that he had passed the [Golan Heights Law](#). Sometimes even the self-evident needs to be stated, which President Trump has also done in this case, as well as in moving the embassy to Jerusalem, in leaving the nuclear agreement with Iran, and is doing at the moment in standing steadfast against Iranian aggression in the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf and the region in general.

We are proud that we have this opportunity to establish the community and also honor a

great friend.

I am very grateful to all of you who have come here. We will continue to build and develop the Golan for all its residents, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, and for the state as a whole."



Gaza missile hits Sderot college

A missile fired from Gaza hit a religious college in Sderot Thursday night, causing light damage to the building.

The missile failed to explode, which meant the damage was not as severe as it could have been. No one was reportedly injured in the attack, as most of the students had left for the weekend. It was the second night in a row that a missile was fired from Gaza into southern Israel.

In response, the Israel Air Force attacked Hamas military targets in Gaza, including one that belonged to Hamas's naval force.

Sderot Mayor Alon Davidi expressed deep frustration saying the city has been targeted by missiles from Gaza for more than 15 years. He said: "The situation as it is cannot continue. As I said in the past, only a ground operation will bring peace to our region."

Tensions have risen along the Gaza border over the last few days due to a number of fires being started by incendiary balloons launched across the border into Israel. According to Israel Ynet, Palestinian groups have begun to attach slow-burning explosive liquids to the incendiary balloons, which drip fireballs as they fly over the border, creating several fires.

On Wednesday evening, for the third time this year, the IDF completely closed the Gaza Strip's offshore waters to Palestinian fishermen until further notice in response to incendiary balloons launched into Israel. According to Israeli NGO Gisha, in 2019 alone, Israel has implemented 15 changes to the demarcation of the fishing zone it enforces off the Gaza coast.

US Middle East envoy, Jason Greenblatt, tweeted: "After a week of fires started across southern Israel by arson balloons from Gaza, 2 rockets have been fired out of Gaza in the last 2 nights. 1 was intercepted & the other hit a school. Terrorist leadership in Gaza is preventing the world from helping there."

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Israeli Justice minister says not all Court rulings have to be enforced

Newly appointed Israeli Justice Minister, Amir Ohana was forced Thursday to clarify that he would uphold Supreme Court rulings after earlier saying that not all court rulings had to be enforced.

In an interview with Israel *Channel 12 News* on Wednesday, Ohana was asked whether, in certain situations, Supreme Court decisions should not be followed. He said: "Not every ruling needs to be enforced, just as not every law needs to be enforced. The ultimate consideration has to be preserving citizens' lives."

In the interview Ohana gave the example of a 2004 Supreme Court ruling that he believed should not have been followed, in which he said the court refused to allow the military to destroy several Palestinian buildings along the Kissufim route in the Gaza Strip. Terrorists then used one of the building as cover to murder pregnant Israeli woman Tali Hatuel and her four daughters.

After the interview was published, Ohana released a statement, saying: "I gave an example of an extreme case that happened in reality. We are not talking about regular court decisions, and we are not talking about decisions that I happen to disagree with. I was talking about the most extreme instances, where a black flag flies over them, and they could cost lives. But even the obvious has to be said: We need to respect the decisions of the courts."

Ohana's remarks were criticised by Supreme Court President Justice Esther Hayut who said Ohana's remarks were: "A preface to an assault against the Supreme Court".

Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit said: "In the State of Israel, as a Jewish and democratic state founded on the principle of the rule of law, the obligation to obey the ruling of the courts is a basic tenet that guarantees the protection of the rights of every citizen in the state. This is not an option that one can choose — it is an obligation upon every citizen and every governmental authority."

Prime Minister Netanyahu tweeted Thursday that: "Court decisions are binding upon everyone."

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