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‘Strategically, the war was a mistake’

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Nonprofit aspires to change Israeli politics

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Despite success, Iran campaign far from over

Israel is quick to call itself regional power, but it's worth recalling the balance of forces

Analysis **Amos Harel**

From the perspective of the top ranks of the Israel Defense Forces, this time there is no doubt: Israel concluded the round of war against Iran with a clear victory. Severe damage was inflicted on the Iranian nuclear project and the country's missile systems, and the leadership in Tehran, which lost many of its senior figures, also lost the relative sense of confidence with which it acted in the region.

The IDF and the Mossad achieved the goals that were set for them at the

start of the campaign: creating conditions to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear state and improving Israel's strategic situation. The achievements were attained faster than originally estimated, and with far fewer losses than the early scenarios predicted. IDF Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir isn't comparing the present era to the time of the War of Independence and isn't expecting any victory parades. But he does know that in the past two weeks the army, under his command, carried out the

most remote and complex operation in Israel's history while thwarting a potential existential threat.

The security cabinet approved the operation for the military with the knowledge that this time, the Israeli public wouldn't be able to absorb another failure. Since the cease-fire took hold, the General Staff sees the campaign as the start of an opportunity to achieve a larger and more ambitious goal. The window has been opened for the possibility to also end the regional war in the arena in which it started – the Gaza Strip – with the prospect of resolving the

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Protesters taking part in a march to demand the immediate release of hostages held in Gaza. U.S. officials say they expect Hamas to accept the Witkoff plan in the coming days. (See story, Page 4.)

Violeta Santos Moura/Reuters

Watching the world move on from Gaza war

Naghm Zbeedat

While Israel and Iran entered into and ended a war of their own, the war in Gaza, for Palestinians, not only has persisted, but also intensified. As the global media turns its gaze away and regional powers claim de-escalation, Palestinians are losing hope.

Omar, 24, had just graduated with a degree in accounting from Al-Azhar University when the war erupted in 2023. Originally from Jabalya in northern Gaza, he was forced to abandon any future plans. "I was supposed to start my internship in an accounting office," he says. "Any plans that we had of getting ahead in life are now shattered."

Today, Omar spends his days navigating the almost-empty markets and documenting his people's suffering on social media, hoping that he can help, either financially, through GoFundMe links, or by giving a voice to his community.

When Israel and Iran entered into their full-blown war almost two weeks ago, he thought maybe, just maybe, the pressure would ease on Gaza, or that the world would be forced to pay attention again.

"But even now, after that war ended, nothing has improved. If anything, it's worse," Omar says. "As soon as Iran and Israel resolved their conflict, Gaza was put back on the shelf," he says. "It's like the world dodged World War III and then moved on, leaving us to die quietly."

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Trump urges Israel to cancel criminal trial against Netanyahu

Ben Samuels and Yael Freidson

WASHINGTON – U.S. President Donald Trump called on Israel to cancel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ongoing trial – the next hearing for which is scheduled on Monday – calling it a "witch hunt" and dismissing the severity of the charges.

The rambling Truth Social post is a remarkable intervention by a U.S. president in a foreign ally's criminal justice system, with several obvious

parallels to Trump's own anger toward the criminal proceedings and eventual conviction against him last year.

"BREAKING NEWS...I was shocked to hear that the State of Israel, which has just had one of its Greatest Moments in History, and is strongly led by Bibi Netanyahu, is continuing its ridiculous Witch Hunt against their Great War Time Prime Minister! Bibi and I just went through HELL together, fighting a very tough and

Herzog, don't pardon him

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brilliant longtime enemy of Israel, Iran, and Bibi could not have been better, sharper, or stronger in his LOVE for the incredible Holy Land," Trump posted.

The post comes a little over 24 hours after Trump excoriated Netanyahu, both on the White House

lawn and during a phone call immediately thereafter, for jeopardizing the cease-fire Trump brokered between Israel and Iran.

Netanyahu thanked Trump for his words. "Thank you, president Trump, for your moving support for me and your tremendous support for Israel and the Jewish people."

In his post, Trump praised Netanyahu, calling him "a WARRIOR,

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A participant holding a poster of Orbán at the Budapest Pride Parade in 2022.

Ferenc Iszu/AFP

Budapest Pride will go ahead in a legal 'gray zone' despite Orbán

Liam Hoare

VIENNA – Local organizers are still planning on holding Budapest Pride on Saturday – in spite of the Hungarian government's best efforts to ban the event and scare participants away with threats of financial prosecution.

On March 18, the government of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán passed legislation banning demonstrations that depict homosexuality on the grounds that they would be "harmful to children." The

law expanded Orbán's ongoing war on Hungary's LG-BTQ community and placed new restrictions on the freedom of assembly – a right that until recently had been generally respected even as Orbán consolidated power and transformed Hungary into a self-described "illiberal democracy."

In spite of the ban, Pride organizers and local authorities believe they may have found a work-around that will allow the annual celebration to take place. On

June 16, Budapest municipal authorities announced they would organize Pride in some shape or form as a "municipal event."

The legal theory went that, because Budapest owns the public spaces like roads and parks where Pride would take place, the city would not need official authorization to hold an event there, akin to a homeowner holding a barbecue in their backyard.

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Brooklyn Nets draft Israelis Saraf, Wolf in first round

Ido Rakovsky and Yan Melnikov

Ben Saraf and Danny Wolf are set to become the fourth and fifth Israelis to play in the NBA, after both were both picked by the Brooklyn Nets in Wednesday night's NBA Draft.

Saraf, a 19-year-old point guard, was drafted 26th overall, while Danny Wolf was taken with the next pick.

Wolf, a center-forward who played for the University of Michigan, is Jewish and acquired Israeli citizenship in 2023 to play for Israel's under-20 team in the European Championship, in which the squad reached the final.

"I didn't sleep all night," Saraf told Haaretz from Germany after being drafted. "It's amazing. I feel really good, happy, but there's not a lot of time; there's a game tonight." Saraf and his team, Ratiopharm Ulm, was due to play Thursday night in the fifth and decisive game of the German league playoff series against Bayern Munich. The game ended after press time.

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that was scheduled for July 15,
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