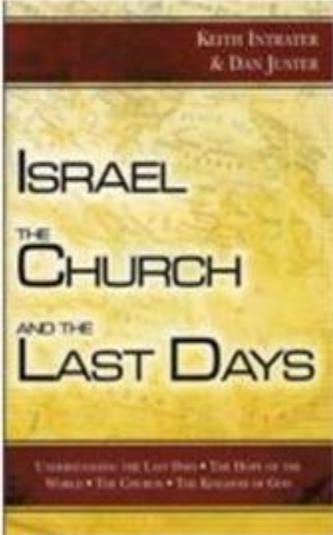


**Yachad Ministries'  
Israel's News Update January 30, 2015**

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**ISRAEL, HEZBOLLAH VIOLENCE FLARES IN GOLAN HEIGHTS:** Antitank missiles were fired at two IDF vehicles from the Har Dov area (Shebaa Farms) in a Hezbollah terrorist ambush Wednesday morning. Two Israeli soldiers were killed in the attack. Israel and the Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah then traded fire in the biggest escalation of fighting since their 2006 war. The United Nations urged all parties to use "maximum restraint" to prevent an escalation. In addition to the death of two IDF soldiers in the Hezbollah strike, seven soldiers were wounded, two of them moderately. The UN later confirmed a peacekeeper, a Spanish soldier, was killed in the exchange of fire. In light of the flareup, Israel UN Ambassador Ron Prosor told the Security Council on Wednesday that it will take all necessary measures to defend itself. IDF Spokesman Moti Almoz said that the IDF has not yet said the last word in its response to the attack. Hezbollah, the dominant force on the Lebanese side of the border, is heavily sponsored by Iran. (VOA/Arutz-7)

**NETANYAHU: IRAN RESPONSIBLE FOR HAR DOV ATTACK, SOLDIERS' DEATHS:** Iran was behind the attack on an IDF patrol on the Lebanese border Wednesday, PM Binyamin Netanyahu argued Thursday. Speaking at a memorial service

for late PM Ariel Sharon, Netanyahu said that “Iran is the party that is arming, funding, and organizing the terror groups that operate on our border, in the north and the south. This is the same Iran that is attempting to wrest a pacifist agreement on its nuclear program from the West,” Netanyahu noted. “They want an agreement that will allow them to continue to develop nuclear weapons. We sharply oppose this agreement. We will continue to defend ourselves from all threats, near and far.” Nuclear negotiators of Iran and the P5+1 countries – Russia, China, France, Britain, the US, plus Germany – wrapped up their second round of talks concerning Tehran's nuclear program last week. They agreed to resume their discussions next month. The talks, chaired by EU official Helga Schmid, are being held with the hope of achieving further progress towards a long-term comprehensive solution on the nuclear issue. Speaking Thursday, Netanyahu urged world leaders to oppose a deal with Iran that allowed Tehran to continue its uranium enrichment program. (Israel National News) **Ira**

**IDF DRILLING ON LEBANON BORDER IN SEARCH FOR HEZBOLLAH TUNNELS:** IDF troops began drilling Wednesday along the Lebanon border in the north, to search for suspected tunnels dug by Hezbollah terrorists into Israeli territory. Residents in Moshav Zarit said that in the years since the 2006 Second Lebanon War, "strange looking" buildings began appearing across the security fence some 450 meters away. More than 10 residents living on one street have complained over the last few months about hearing noises at night. Investigations revealed what appeared to be a tunnel route dug from Lebanon into Israel. (Ha'aretz)

**HEZBOLLAH ATTACK RUINS THIS YEAR'S HERMON SKI BUSINESS:** As of Thursday, a day after two IDF soldiers were killed in a Hezbollah terrorist ambush on an army patrol along the Lebanese border, life was seemingly back to normal in northern Israel. Although there is a marked rise in the number of soldiers and army vehicles in the area, schools and businesses have resumed normal schedules, and the Mount Hermon ski center - located just a few kilometers from the site of the Hezbollah attack on Har Dov – is open for business. However, site operators say there are few visitors to the ski center - a rare phenomenon, as the center is usually jam-packed with Israelis who want to enjoy the slopes on the few days each year that conditions allow for skiing. Site operators are attributing the lack of visitors to the heightened security situation in the north, as are hotel and bed and breakfast owners, who, before the attack Wednesday, had been sold out for the week with Israelis seeking winter fun in the north. More than three quarters of those who had reserved rooms canceled in the roughly 24 hours since the attack. (INN)

**TOP OBAMA AID WORKING TO DEFEAT ISRAELI RIGHT:** A top appointee in President Barack Obama's 2012 election campaign is acting to defeat PM Netanyahu in the upcoming March election in Israel. Jeremy Bird, who was the national field director for Obama's 2012 campaign, is now working for an Israel-based group, dubbed V15, an anti-Netanyahu group that is backed by a the leftist One Voice organization. Bird is described as the “secret campaign weapon” for V15. Bird was the field director for South

Carolina in Obama's primary campaign for the 2008 election. Early opinion polls in the state gave Obama and Hillary Clinton equal odds, but in the primary vote Obama beat her two to one. That victory helped Obama to clinch the Democratic nomination, and it resulted in Bird's promotion to deputy national field director for the 2008 national election. For Obama's 2012 reelection campaign, Bird was national field director. After the election, Bird parlayed his success into 270 Strategies, a political consulting firm that helps election campaigns all over the world to build grassroots strategies. (Arutz-7)

**ISIS URGES NEW ATTACKS AGAINST WESTERN WORLD:** The Islamic State terrorist group has urged Muslims to carry out new attacks after the targeting of France's Charlie Hebdo magazine, in a recording by its spokesman recently posted online. Abu Mohamed al-Adnani, referring to attacks in France, Australia, Canada and Belgium, encouraged "Muslims in Europe and the infidel West to attack the Crusaders where they are with any means available to them." The ISIS leader recommended Muslims to carry out attacks through suicide bombs, or to commit shootings, stabbings, rock-throwing, and even plain kicking and punching. "We promise that in the Christian bastions they will continue to live in a state of alert, of terror, of fear and insecurity. You have seen nothing yet," the recording said. Al-Adnani also promised that Muslims would soon meet again in Jerusalem and Rome, having successfully won back these holy cities. The threat is just the latest instance in which the terrorist group has urged Muslims to carry out attacks in the West. It comes after 17 people were killed in deadly assaults on January 7-9 in Paris against the Charlie Hebdo magazine and a kosher supermarket. (Arutz-7)

**SAUDI ARABIA BUILDING 600-MILE 'GREAT WALL' TO KEEP OUT ISIS:** Saudi Arabia is constructing a 600-mile "great wall" along its border with Iraq to keep ISIS and other extremists at bay. Former US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Robert Jordan, said that for the last 7 to 8 years, Saudi Arabia has been tendering bids for some sort of border security system, and is finally beginning construction in September. Jordan added that the high-tech, state of the art wall – which will have five layers of fencing, some of which are 125 feet high – isn't just intended to keep out ISIS forces, but also to prevent Iranian Shiite militants from entering Saudi Arabia through Iraq. Jordan said that Saudi Arabia is also looking at doing the same thing with the country's 1,000-mile southern border with Yemen.(Conservative Byte)

**PORTUGAL TO GRANT SEPHARDIC JEWS CITIZENSHIP:** Portugal intends to follow Spain's lead in granting citizenship to the descendants of Sephardic Jews exiled in the 15th century. Portuguese Tourism Minister, Adolfo Nunes, said this week that the wording of a draft bill, similar to that announced by Spain just over a week ago, will soon be ready. While Jews who fleeing the Spanish expulsion of 1492 were initially granted refuge in Portugal, they again faced expulsion at the hands of Manuel I of Portugal three years later. Nunes, who was in Israel last week said that he intended to bolster Israeli tourism to his country. Spanish Justice Minister, Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon, recently submitted a draft legislation, on behalf of the cabinet, to the legislature that would grant

citizenship to anyone who could prove Sephardic Jewish identity or a “special connection” to Spain. (J. Post)

**MIRACLE FOR 56-YEAR-OLD ETHIOPIAN IMMIGRANT:** A 56-year-old Kiryat Malachi woman gave birth at the age of 56 to her first child - a healthy 3.01-kilo baby boy. The new mother came on aliya from Ethiopia during Operation Solomon in 1991. Hospital officials reported on Monday that the woman was kept in a hospital bed for a month to protect the fetus from movement that could endanger the birth, which was carried out by cesarean section. The new Mother has nine brothers and always dreamed of having her own child, but she and her husband did not succeed. After a long, supportive talk with her niece, who urged her not to give up, she discovered she was pregnant. She thanked the hospital staff for their devotion and support. “I am so excited that I am now able to hold this stota (“gift” in Amharic) in my arms,” she said. (Jerusalem Post)

**IN A BIPARTISAN FEAT, THE SENATE BANKING COMMITTEE APPROVED THE NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE IRAN ACT OF 2015 BILL IN ITS MARK-UP SESSION ON THURSDAY.** The bill garnered eighteen votes, twelve Republican and six Democratic. In Tuesday’s Banking Committee hearing on Iran sanctions, key Democrats had indicated their support for the bill. Senator Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) announced to the Committee he would vote in favor of the bill so that it would be “ready to go.” Senator Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) indicated he would do the same. The Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act of 2015, written by Senators Menendez and Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), would impose economic pressure against Iran only if a final agreement on its nuclear program is not reached by the deadline set for June. The Obama administration has been clear about its opposition to any legislation that contains penalties against Iran and has urged Democrats not to support such bills. In a demonstration of support for the bill, on Tuesday ten Democratic senators, led by Menendez, sent a letter to President Obama stating they would vote for the Nuclear Free Iran Act of 2015, if Iran did not consent to a political framework that “addresses all parameters of a comprehensive agreement” by March 24. Senator Schumer reiterated the bipartisan support on the issue expressing his “thanks to Senators Menendez and Kirk for introducing a strong sanctions bill that has bipartisan support . . .” Also during the mark-up, Senator Vitter (R-La.) offered an amendment reiterating “Israel’s basic right to defend itself.” Vitter explained, “The reason that it’s unfortunately necessary is because in the international community and particularly forums like the U.N., that is not a given.” Ranking minority leader Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) responded, “I agree. Israel has a right to defend itself against all who threaten its borders.”

**JIHADISTS SIMULTANEOUSLY ATTACKED OVER A DOZEN ARMY AND POLICE TARGETS IN NORTHERN SINAI ON THURSDAY NIGHT,** killing at least 25 people, including civilians, according to reports. Several checkpoints, a police club, a hotel, and a military base were targeted in the cities of el-Arish, Sheikh Zuwayid,

and Rafah. The attackers reportedly fired mortars and set off at least one car bomb. Egyptian officials indicated that the death toll was expected to rise. Egypt's Sinai Peninsula has long been a haven for jihadists and militants including Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, which pledged loyalty to the Islamic State last November. Analysts at the Brookings Institution have called the region "a fertile environment for Islamist militants to thrive, effectively rendering the Sinai Peninsula a new front in a region rife with conflict." The Egyptian military has been fighting a growing insurgency in northern Sinai since the fall of Mohamed Morsi in July 2013, announcing a full-scale assault in September 2013. Militants launched major attacks against security checkpoints last October. Ansar Beit al-Maqdis reportedly planted nearly two dozen bombs in northern Sinai throughout November 2014, killing four men. In recent months, the Egyptian government has begun a policy of systematically demolishing houses in Rafah, which straddles the border with the Gaza Strip, to crack down on the flow of weapons and terrorists across the border. The intention is to create a buffer zone, which has widened from 500 yards to more than a half mile, and Rafah's governor hinted that the entire city might be torn down. In an interview with France24, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi said that Egypt will not allow Sinai to "become a base for attacks against Israel." Under Sisi's leadership, security coordination and collaboration between Israel and Egypt has greatly increased as the two countries share the common interest of defeating Islamist terror. Israel has allowed Egypt to keep a far larger force in Sinai than what is allowed under the Camp David Accords in order to facilitate Egypt's efforts to fight terrorism in the often lawless territory.

**NORWAY'S LARGEST CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION, THE OLAV THON FOUNDATION HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ITS FIRST INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD IN THE MEDICAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES WILL GO TO TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY'S (TAU) PROF. YOSEF SHILOH AND PROF. JUDITH CAMPISI OF THE BUCK INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON AGING, CALIFORNIA.** The two scientists will split the prize money of approximately \$660,000. The foundation, which invests heavily in medical research, recognized Shiloh, the Myers Professor of Cancer Genetics and Research Professor of the Israel Cancer Research Fund at TAU's Sackler School of Medicine, for his pioneering research on the mechanisms that maintain the survival of human cells and the stability of human genetic material "A prize means scientific recognition," said Prof. Shiloh. "Scientists do not work in order to get prizes or any other monetary benefits, but the award of a prize means that our work is recognized by our colleagues, and this is probably the true reward of a scientist." "The laureates have provided us with new insights into the molecular basis of aging, aging-related diseases, and cellular degenerative processes," writes the Olav Thon Foundation. Shiloh was a recipient of the prestigious Israel Prize (considered "Israel's Nobel") in Life Sciences in 2011, the 2011 American Association of Cancer Research G.H.A. Clowes Award, and the 2005 EMET Prize in Life Sciences. (via Israel21c)

**A BIPARTISAN GROUP OF LAWMAKERS ON THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WROTE A LETTER TO SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO REVOKE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY (PA)** in response to its decision to join the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Palestinian Authority (PA) signed the ICC's founding treaty, the Rome Statute, on December 31st of last year. The Congressmen who wrote the letter, including Chairman Ed Royce (R-Calif.) and Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), wrote that "The United States should not support direct economic assistance to the PA until it demonstrates a meaningful reversal of this destructive course and proves it can be a willing partner for peace." The Department of State has called the PA's actions with regards to the ICC "entirely counterproductive" and said they would "undermine trust and create doubts about their commitment to a negotiated peace." Following the signing of the Rome Statute, the Palestinians asked the ICC to investigate Israel for alleged war crimes perpetrated during the last Gaza war and the ICC has decided to open a preliminary probe to determine if war crimes were committed. Joining the ICC puts the PA in violation of U.S. legislation that states that no State Department economic aid can be transferred to the PA if "the Palestinians initiate an International Criminal Court judicially authorized investigation, or actively support such an investigation, that subjects Israeli nationals to an investigation for alleged crimes against Palestinians." The U.S. gives the Palestinian Authority around \$400 million per year. Like Israel, the United States has refused to submit to the court's jurisdiction as it does not want to expose American troops and leaders to prosecution. Joining the ICC also exposes the Palestinians to charges of war crimes. The Israel Law Center has filed complaints against three Palestinian Authority leaders for alleged war crimes, terrorism, and human rights offenses. Chairwoman of the Israel Law Center, Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, said "The PA and Hamas have to understand that the International Criminal Court is a double-edged sword."

**ROCKETS FROM SYRIA STRIKE NORTHERN ISRAEL:** At least two rockets fired from Syria landed in the Israeli Golan Heights on Tuesday, sparking widespread fears of renewed warfare with Lebanon's Hezbollah terrorist militia, which is currently deployed in Syria to aid embattled dictator Bashar Assad. There were no initial reports of damage or injuries resulting from the rocket fire from Syria, but Israel evacuated the Mt. Hermon ski resort and police closed roads to the northern half of the Golan as a precaution. Israeli artillery returned fire, and the air force dispatched jets to the border region. Local residents were ordered to remain in bomb shelters for the duration of the exchange, which subsided by mid-afternoon. The border region has been on high alert since last week, when an Israeli helicopter gunship fired two missiles at a convoy in the Syrian border town of Quneitra, killing a top Hezbollah field commander and a visiting Iranian general. (Israel Today)

**IDF SOURCE CLAIMS HEZBOLLAH BEHIND ROCKET FIRE AS IAF RAISES ALERT IN NORTHERN ISRAEL:** The Israeli Air Force raised the alert level of its

flight squadrons on the northern front on Tuesday, in response to at least two rockets fired from Syrian territory. The source added that the IDF attacked the Syrian military launching pad and claimed that Hezbollah was responsible for the rocket fire. However, he emphasized that Israel "sees Syrian as responsible for all fire emanating from its territory." Military forces conducted searches for the rockets' landing sites and they were located in the northern Golan. IDF artillery fired 20 shells into Syrian territory in response to the rocket fire – one of the heaviest barrages on the enemy state in years. Meanwhile, Lebanese media outlet Al-Manar, reported that Israeli Air Force jets were conducting intensive flyovers in the Golan Heights, on the Israeli side of the border. PM Netanyahu, responded to the firing of rockets from Syria at the Golan Heights and said that "Israel views with severity the attack launched against the country from Syrian soil." Netanyahu added that "Whoever plays with fire will be hit with fire." (Ynet/INN)

**IDF DIGGING TRENCHES ALONG THE SYRIAN BORDER:** The IDF has begun digging trenches along the border with Syria, media sources revealed Monday night, amid concerns of real escalation between Israel and Islamists in neighboring Syria and Lebanon. The mechanical engineering company of the IDF's Northern Command has employed tractors to dig the trenches, amid specific concerns regarding terrorist infiltrations by car via border crossings. Outposts near the Syrian border are not far from rebel positions from the Al-Nusra Front and the Free Syrian Army, who patrol the border regularly in cars and motorcycles. Western diplomatic officials said Israel, in light of recent threats, also has imparted to Lebanon a strong warning, emphasizing that Jerusalem will respond to any attack on Israel or Israeli institutions anywhere in the world. (Arutz-7)

**HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS GATHER AT AUSCHWITZ TO MARK 70 YEARS SINCE ITS LIBERATION:** Around 300 survivors of the Auschwitz death camp gathered on Tuesday to mark 70 years since its liberation by Soviet troops, joined by world leaders for a commemoration held in the shadow of a sharp rise in anti-Semitism in Europe. Tuesday's gathering in southern Poland marked perhaps the last major anniversary that survivors of the Nazi German camp will be able to attend in numbers, given the youngest are now in their 70s. Around 1.5 million people, mainly European Jews, were gassed, shot, hanged and burned at the camp in southern Poland during World War Two. It has become the most poignant symbol of a Holocaust that claimed six million Jewish lives across Europe. The presidents of Poland, Germany, and France were among hundreds attending the commemoration. World Jewish Congress President, Ronald Lauder, called on world leaders present to stand up to what he called a new wave of hatred and to "make hate a crime." Lauder insisted that while many had thought anti-Semitism to be eradicated, it has undergone a resurgence and "Europe suddenly awoke to find itself surrounded by anti-Semitism again and it looks more like 1933 than 2015. Once again, Jewish businesses are targeted. And once again, Jewish families are fleeing Europe," he mourned. (Ynet/Jerusalem Post)

**BBC ASKS 'IS IT TIME TO LAY THE HOLOCAUST TO REST?'** The BBC is no stranger to controversial statements tinged with anti-Semitic and anti-Israel sentiments. Now it has raised ire again by suggesting it is time to forget the Holocaust. As the world on Tuesday observed International Holocaust Memorial Day and the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the most lethal of the genocidal Nazi death camps, BBC decided to ask on the Twitter page of its "The Big Questions" debate show a particularly troubling question.

"Our one big question this morning: Is the time coming to lay the Holocaust to rest?" read the Twitter post, issued two days before International Holocaust Memorial Day. Honest Reporting Editor, Simon Plosker, responded to the Tweet, saying "what or who exactly does the BBC want to lay to rest? Holocaust survivors? The memory of six million Jewish victims of Nazi genocide? The BBC evidently has no moral compass when it comes to Jews or Israel," charged Plosker. "Why should this even be up for debate and why is it only issues of immense importance to Jews that the BBC is prepared to ride roughshod over? The BBC originally asked could something like the Holocaust happen again. Asking whether people should forget about the Holocaust could very well increase the possibility of it happening again," he concluded. (INN)

**ANTISEMITISM DOUBLED IN FRANCE IN 2014:** The number of anti-Semitic acts doubled in France during 2014, with deeds involving physical violence leading the increase, the country's main Jewish group said on Tuesday. Some 851 anti-Semitic acts were registered in 2014, compared with 423 the previous year, with acts of physical violence jumping to 241 from 105, the CRIF said. The numbers were released as world leaders readied to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in Poland and less than three weeks after Islamist attacks in Paris left 17 people dead, including four Jewish men taken hostage at a kosher supermarket. "These anti-Semitic acts represent 51% of racist acts committed in France while Jews make up only one percent of the French population," said the group in a statement. The CRIF group said there was a "very significant and very worrying increase in the violence of anti-Semitic acts" and warned that "anti-Semitic" prejudices were rife in the country. The results mirror a report from the World Zionist Organization Sunday stating that France is now the most dangerous country in the world for Jews. (Israel National News)

**NETANYAHU: "I AM OBLIGATED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PREVENT IRAN FROM ACHIEVING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AIMED AT ISRAEL:** PM Netanyahu told the Cabinet Sunday: "In the coming weeks, the major powers are liable to reach a framework agreement with Iran, an agreement that is liable to leave Iran as a nuclear threshold state, which would endanger - first and foremost - the existence of the State of Israel. This is the same Iran that has taken over Lebanon and Syria and is now taking over Yemen and Iraq. This is the same Iran that is preparing an active front against us both on the Golan Heights and in southern Lebanon. This same Iran cannot advance toward nuclear weapons. As Prime Minister of Israel, I am obligated to make every effort in order to prevent Iran from achieving nuclear weapons that would be aimed at the State

of Israel. This effort is worldwide and I will go anywhere I am invited in order to enunciate the State of Israel's position and in order to defend its future and its existence."  
(Prime Minister's Office)

**ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO US CALLS NETANYAHU ADDRESS A 'SACRED DUTY':** Israel's ambassador to the US forcefully defended PM Netanyahu's decision to address a joint session of Congress next month, describing the move as a "sacred duty" for the Israeli leader in a critical period for the "survival" of the state. The current agreement under consideration by world powers and Iran, Ambassador Ron Dermer said on Sunday night, would leave Iran a "threshold nuclear power" - an outcome Israel cannot, and will not, accept. The prime minister's visit to Washington is intended for one purpose, and one purpose only," Dermer told an audience in Florida: "To speak up while there is still time to speak up. To speak up when there is still time to make a difference." Last week, Democratic leadership criticized the political nature of Netanyahu's upcoming address - and his invitation to deliver it, after House Speaker John Boehner offered the Israeli leader the opportunity without consulting the White House. The Obama administration called it "unusual," and promptly announced its decision not to receive Netanyahu during his visit to Washington. (Jerusalem Post)

**NETAFIM JOINING \$60 MILLION INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT:** Israeli water sector giant Netafim has been selected to partake in a \$60 million micro-irrigation project in the southwestern Indian state of Karnataka, the company announced on Tuesday. The project, which will span 12,000 hectares of land and help 6,700 farmers with small plots in 22 villages, aims to increase their crop production capacity and improve their standard of living, according to Netafim. In doing so, the farmers will also be able to save about 50% of their water consumption, the company added. (Jerusalem Post)

**EX-OBAMA AIDE SAYS PRESIDENT 'NOT BEING TOUGH ENOUGH' WITH IRAN:** Dennis Ross, the veteran Mideast hand and former peace envoy, criticized his former boss, US President Barack Obama, for "not being tough enough" with Iran in light of the stalled nuclear talks and the recent coup in Yemen. Ross argues that American allies in the region are growing more apprehensive over what they see as growing Iranian influence in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, while Washington is perceived to be on the retreat. "These two simultaneous developments - the deadlock in nuclear talks and Iran's aggressive moves in the region - are not coincidental," wrote Ross. "They are intimately linked, and that should be a lesson for President Obama: The nuclear deadlock cannot be broken unless Washington reengages in the myriad of conflicts and civil wars plaguing the region, particularly now that Yemen is vulnerable and the Saudi royal family is in a state of turmoil following the death of King Abdullah on Thursday." Ross took Obama and his European allies to task for granting the Iranians "a generous list of concessions" during the course of the nuclear talks that have lasted well over a year. The former peace envoy says that Western powers have "conceded to Iranian enrichment of

uranium, agreed that Tehran need not scale back the number of its centrifuges significantly or dismantle any facilities, and could have an industrial-size program after passage of a period of time.” Ross notes that “Historically, the Islamic Republic has adjusted its behavior only when its leaders saw high costs in not doing so.” Instead of more concessions, the West ought to make “Iran’s leaders see they have more to lose than gain by not concluding an agreement,” according to Ross. (Jerusalem Post)

**IRAN: GOAL REMAINS ISRAEL’S FULL OBLITERATION:** A top Iranian general last week reiterated that one of the Islamic Republic’s chief military goals remains the “full obliteration” of the Jewish State of Israel, according to Iran’s state-run PRESSTV. Iranian forces “will continue and deepen support for the Muslim combatants and fighters in the region until full removal of this very epitome of evil from the geopolitics of the region,” said the chief of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Maj.-Gen. Mohammad Ali Jafari, in reference to Israel. Jafari’s remarks also came days before Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu was scheduled to make a controversial appearance before the US Congress in an effort to convince Washington to impose stricter sanctions on Iran. Israel remains convinced that Iran is seeking to attain nuclear weapons, and that those weapons would be aimed at the Jewish state. (Israel Today)

**UN HOSTS FIRST EVER MEETING DEDICATED TO COMBATING ANTISEMITISM:** The UN General Assembly gathered Thursday for its first ever meeting dedicated to global action against anti-Semitism. The meeting was organized by Western nations in order to address an "alarming outbreak of anti-Semitism worldwide." Israel's Ambassador to the UN Ron Prosor addressing the UN Assembly said, "The struggle against anti-Semitism must be a priority for every nation because the hatred that begins with the Jews never ends with the Jews. History has shown us time and again that when a nation's Jews are not safe, the entire society is at risk." He continued, "We need a strong and enduring commitment to the living Jews in Europe. The days when Jews were the world's victims are over. We will never again be helpless and we will never again remain silent. Today we have the State of Israel standing guard. We have seen the evil that man is capable of, and so we must be vigilant." (Ynet/Time)

**EU OFFICIAL: WITHOUT JEWS, EUROPE HAS NO FUTURE:** Europe without its Jews has no future, a senior EU official asserted days ago, echoing comments made by politicians in England and France in the aftermath of the attack on a kosher grocery in Paris this month. “If there’s no future for Jews in Europe, there’s no future for Europe,” said Frans Timmermans, first vice president of the European Commission. “If the EU is to survive it is based on the fact that for every community that belongs in Europe, there is a place in Europe.” The mistreatment of Jews has always been a harbinger of “trouble ahead for European societies,” he added. Nearly three-quarters of French Jews surveyed in 2013 said they were considering leaving the country. In England, 45% of Jewish respondents recently told pollsters they were “concerned that Jews may not have a long-term future in Britain.” In an op-ed in the Jewish Chronicle several days after the poll’s

results were reported, British PM David Cameron wrote that the “idea that the Jewish people once again feels unsafe in Europe is a truly sickening thought that strikes at the heart of everything we stand for.” (Jerusalem Post)

**ATTACKS ON JEWS DOUBLED IN LONDON AREA:** Hate crimes against Jews in London more than doubled last year, according to the Scotland Yard. The police headquarters for London reported 299 hate crimes against Jewish people between the start of April and the end of December of 2014. This represented a rise of 128% over the corresponding period in 2013, when there were 131 hate crimes. About two thirds of British Jewry live in or around London. British police said last week that they were increasing patrols in areas with large Jewish communities following deadly terror attacks by Islamists in Paris. (JTA)

**DUTCH JEWS DEMAND GOVERNMENT DEPLOY TROOPS NEAR SYNAGOGUES:** Dutch Jews asked their government to post troops outside synagogues to match security measures in France and Belgium. The plea came last week in letters addressed to mayors by officials from a number of Jewish communities in the Netherlands following an Islamist’s slaying on Jan. 9 of four Jews at a kosher supermarket near Paris. “Now that Jewish targets in Belgium and France are guarded by the army, we ask why not in the Netherlands,” a letter signed by the Dutch Israelite Religious Community said. “Surely, the threat is the same.” Some Dutch synagogues have police protection, while others have no armed guards. Several communities are reporting a drop in synagogue attendance because of growing insecurity. (Jerusalem Post)

**BELGIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS BECOMING ‘JEW FREE’ ZONES:** A Belgian watchdog on anti-Semitism warned that the country’s public schools are becoming “Jew-free” zones because of harassment. Joel Rubinfeld, president of the Belgian League Against Anti-Semitism, revealed that the only Jewish student at the Emile Bockstael high school in Brussels left following threats from classmates after she posted a picture of an Israeli flag on Facebook. The school “has become Judenfrei, there are no more Jewish students there,” Rubinfeld said, using the German-language term that the Nazis applied to locales which had been rendered “free of Jews.” Rubinfeld also said that a growing number of parents are being forced to pull their children from public schools all over Belgium. The last Jewish student at Emile Bockstael, identified only as Sarah, posted a picture of herself holding the Belgian flag alongside the Israeli one in summer. She received 288 abusive comments, including threats, on Facebook, by classmates and other pupils she did not know. (Jerusalem Post)

**KIPPAH-WEARING SWEDISH REPORTER ASSAULTED IN MALMO:** A Swedish reporter who walked around Malmo while wearing a kippah to test attitudes toward Jews was hit once and cursed at by passersby before he fled for fear of serious violence. Sveriges Television last week aired secretly recorded footage from Petter Ljunggren’s walk through Malmo, which documented some of the incidents that occurred

within the space a few hours. In one scene, Ljunggren - who, in addition to wearing a kippah was also wearing Star of David pendant - was filmed sitting at a cafe in central Malmo reading a newspaper, as several passersby hurled anti-Semitic insults at him. Elsewhere, one person hit his arm. One of the people who cursed Ljunggren called him a “Jewish devil,” “Jewish s--t” and another told him to “get out.” One person on a scooter approached Ljunggren to warn him to leave for his own safety. In the heavily Muslim Rosengard neighborhood, Ljunggren was surrounded by a dozen men who shouted anti-Semitic slogans as eggs were hurled at his direction from apartments overhead. He then fled the area. The experiment was part of a 58-minute documentary titled “Jew-hatred in Malmo.” (JTA)

**NETANYAHU: ISRAEL MUST OPEN ASIAN MARKETS DUE TO ANTISEMITISM IN EUROPE:** According to Israel’s PM Netanyahu, with Europe becoming increasingly hostile toward Israel and Jews, the Jewish state needs to diversify its markets. “Western Europe is undergoing a wave of Islamization, anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism,” said Netanyahu. “These waves are washing over it, and we would like to ensure that the State of Israel will have varied markets around the world.” Asia outstripped the US in 2014 as Israel’s second-largest trading partner, with the EU, however, still at the top of the list. Since coming to power in 2009, Netanyahu has been pushing for stronger ties with Asia. His words last week were his strongest to date that Israel needs to put its economic eggs in different baskets because of anti-Israel feelings, anti-Semitism and Islamization in certain segments of the continent. (Jerusalem Post)

**ISRAELI INNOVATORS RECEIVE GRANTS TO AID DEVELOPING WORLD:** The Grand Challenges Israel program last week for the first time awarded ten Israeli innovators with grants of up to NIS 500,000 (\$127,000) for projects that tackle tough issues in the developing world. The program, which aims to promote technologies addressing health, water and agricultural challenges in developing nations, was launched last year. "The Israeli initiatives give voice to Israelis' abilities in the field of innovation technology alongside Israel's entrepreneurial spirit," said Avi Hasson, chief scientist at the Economy Ministry. Half of the winners were in the field of health care. (Jerusalem Post)

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***Sharing Yeshua in unity with both Jew and Gentile***