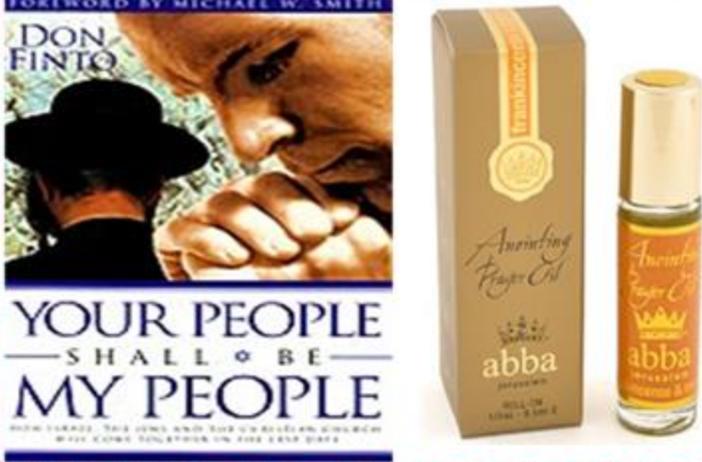


Yachad Ministries'
Israel's News Update February 20, 2015

Yachad Ministries
is now offering free shipping for orders over \$50.00 on all CDs, Books, Jewelry and Judaica items at: www.yachad.com



The advertisement features a book cover on the left and two perfume bottles on the right. The book cover is for 'DON FINTO' by Michael W. Smith, with the subtitle 'YOUR PEOPLE SHALL BE MY PEOPLE'. The perfume bottles are 'Anointed Prayer Oil' by Abba, one in a box and one in a glass bottle.

SNOWSTORM COVERS ISRAEL IN WHITE FROM NORTH TO SOUTH: The late winter storm has fallen upon Israel, with snowfall in the northern Golan Heights and Galilee hills, in Jerusalem and down into Kiryat Arba and Hevron in Judea. Mount Hermon, Israel's sole skiing site, has been closed to visitors due to the harsh weather, with slushy rain and snow falling in areas of Samaria and even the Binyamin region of Samaria just north of Jerusalem. Before the storm set in, PM Binyamin Netanyahu received a briefing on preparations at the Border Police headquarters in Lod, saying "instructions are, first of all, to save lives, before anything else, to prevent loss of life. The second instruction is – to the best of our ability – to see to the orderly supply of electricity." At least half a foot of snow is expected to collect by Friday morning, mostly on mountains of a height of 500 meters or more. (Israel National News)

NETANYAHU: ISRAEL HAS FULL KNOWLEDGE OF 'DANGEROUS' IRAN DEAL: PM Netanyahu told visiting USA Senator David Perdue (R-Ga.) on Wednesday that Israel is aware of the details of the negotiations with Iran on its nuclear program. While "the Islamic Republic of Iran is relentlessly pursuing nuclear weapons with the express purpose of destroying the State of Israel, the P5+1's latest proposal won't stop them," Netanyahu said. "The Iranians of course know the details of that proposal and Israel does too. So when we say that the current proposal would lead to a bad deal, a

dangerous deal, we know what we're talking about." Referring to his upcoming speech to Congress, Netanyahu said he was open to hearing the opinions of those who disagree with his approach, "and I would hope that they would be open to hear the arguments of Israel as well." (Times of Israel)

UN: PROBE OF ALLEGED IRANIAN NUKE WEAPONS PROGRAM DEADLOCKED: The UN nuclear agency reported deadlock Thursday in its probe of allegations that Iran worked on atomic arms - an assessment that further dims hopes that Tehran and six world powers could negotiate a full nuclear deal by their June deadline. The USA and five other powers insist that Tehran must fully cooperate with the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency's probe for any nuclear agreement that grants Iran total sanctions relief. "Iran has not provided any explanations" on the suspicions, according to a confidential report obtained by media sources. Iran agreed a year ago to work with the IAEA. But like previous probes, the investigation quickly stalled over Tehran's insistence that it never wanted or worked on such weapons and any evidence to the contrary is fabricated. Diplomats have said that Washington is willing to extend the IAEA investigation, if an agreement is reached by June that constrains Iran's uranium enrichment program and other activities that could be turned to making nuclear arms. They say the USA would set a time limit on such an extension and keep some sanctions on Tehran in place until the IAEA delivers its ruling. (CBS)

IRAN'S KHAMENEI THREATENS WEST WITH CUT IN GAS EXPORTS IF HIT WITH SANCTIONS: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei vowed Wednesday that his country would resist global sanctions imposed over its disputed nuclear program, saying that Iran might respond to international pressure by cutting back gas exports. "The enemy is using the lever of sanctions to the hilt and their goal is to stop our people's progress," Khamenei said in a public speech. "I believe that if we allow them to dictate to us on the nuclear issue, they will still keep the sanctions in place because what they are against is the very foundation of our revolution. Serious work must take place. We can withstand the sanctions and foil the enemy's goals. If we don't, the enemy would proceed and place conditions on our nuclear program and impose new sanctions," Khamenei said. "If sanctions are to be the way, the Iranian nation can also do it. A big collection of the world's oil and gas is in Iran so Iran if necessary can hold back on the gas that Europe and the world is so dependent on." (Jerusalem Post)

IRAN: "WE ARE WITNESSING THE EXPORT OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION THROUGHOUT THE REGION": Qassem Suleimani, the commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, told a rally last week, "We are witnessing the export of the Islamic revolution throughout the region, from Bahrain and Iraq to Syria, Yemen and North Africa." As it attempts to negotiate a nuclear deal that would free its economy from sanctions, Shiite Iran's influence is increasingly visible from the Gulf of Aden to the Mediterranean. "Iran is advancing," said Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi commentator. Iran "has succeeded in Syria in maintaining Bashar al-Assad,

succeeded in Iraq in having all the Shiites on its side, and it has expanded now to Yemen." (Bloomberg)

‘INSTITUTIONAL ANTISEMITISM’ EXISTS IN THE USA, EXPERT SAYS: The American failure to highlight Jew hatred when engaging with entities such as Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood may be defined as “institutional anti-Semitism,” an expert on the topic said Thursday. Dr. Charles Small, director of the Institute for the Study of Global Anti-Semitism, further expressed the view that American Jews have not engaged with the issue. “It is easier to look at the anti-Semitism faraway than it is to look at the anti-Semitism within American society.” Small said while he is not accusing any members of the current administration of harboring anti-Semitic attitudes, he believes that a sort of functional anti-Semitism exists. As the USA takes part in dialogues with the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamic Republic, it fails to bring up the issue of the “genocidal agenda of anti-Semitism” that both bodies have expressed, he said. “To not deal with anti-Semitism is not only immoral, but I would call it, institutional anti-Semitism.” Small explained that the concept relates to a system “in which individuals may not be anti-Semitic, but there is an institutional culture which promotes certain types of behavior. And when an administration is engaging those who want to exterminate Jews and by not engaging this immoral and horrific form of hatred they give oxygen to it and allow it to fester,” said Small. (Jerusalem Post)

EGYPT OUTRAGED BY USA STATE DEPARTMENT HOSTING OF MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD: A delegation of Muslim Brotherhood members met with officials at the USA State Department on Jan. 27, 2015. The Egyptian regime, outraged by the visit, accused the Obama administration of not respecting Egyptian law that defines the Brotherhood as a terrorist organization, and of discounting the will of the Egyptian people. It also claimed that this conduct flies in the face of USA policy, which champions the struggle against global terrorism. (MEMRI)

‘ISIS SETS SIGHTS ON LIBYA AS GATEWAY TO EVENTUAL INVASION OF EUROPE’: ISIS has set its sights on taking over Libya as a bridgehead to eventually waging war all across southern Europe. According to a UK media report, ISIS jihadists plan to “flood Libya with terrorists from Syria and Iraq, who will then sail across the Mediterranean posing as migrants on people-trafficking vessels.” ISIS “would then run amok in southern European cities and also try to attack maritime shipping,” the source reported. Earlier this week, Egypt conducted air strikes on ISIS targets in Libya as retaliation for the beheading of 21 Egyptian Copts taken captive. Libya is a mere 300 miles from the tip of southern Italy.

The instability in the North African country has European officials concerned that the tumult could spill over into the Continent. Italian security chiefs on Tuesday approved a plan to put 4,800 soldiers on the streets throughout the country to help guard against terrorist attacks. Italian media said about 500 would be deployed in Rome, where army troops already help guard diplomatic missions and residences, the capital's synagogue

and Jewish schools. Meanwhile, a senior member of the Palestinian Islamic group, Hamas has warned Italy not to embark on a military intervention in Libya, saying this "would be considered "a new Crusade against Arab countries and Muslims." (Jerusalem Post)

ISIS APPROACHES EUROPE, PLANNING ATTACKS IN TURKEY AND BULGARIA: ISIS terrorists have entered Turkey and are plotting to attack diplomatic missions in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkish media on Thursday quoted the national intelligence agency (MIT) as saying. Around 3,000 terrorists from the ultra-radical group in Syria and Iraq are looking to enter Turkey through its southern border after failing to take the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani. Some terrorists, including senior commanders who are planning the attacks, are thought to have already entered Turkey and are in safe houses," the note said. "Militants expert in suicide and bomb attacks are preparing attacks on the Istanbul and Ankara missions of coalition forces which intervened in Syria," it said. Some ISIS fighters with Syrian and Palestinian nationality were also planning to cross into Bulgaria to carry out attacks in EU countries, it added. (J. Post)

ISRAEL-INDIA STRATEGIC TIES ARE NO LONGER A SECRET: A photo of Indian PM Narendra Modi visiting the Israel Aerospace Industries pavilion at the Aero India exhibition in Bangalore on Wednesday with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon shows that the close relationship between the two countries is now out in the open. "India is a true friend to Israel, and advancing joint interests will greatly benefit both nations and their defense establishments, which have excellent relations," Ya'alon said. India has become the largest customer for Israeli defense exports over the past two years. (Ha'aretz)

NEW ISIS VIDEO SHOWS MASS BEHEADING OF EGYPTIAN CHRISTIANS IN LIBYA: A video Sunday showed 21 Egyptian Christians, kidnapped in Libya by ISIS and dressed in orange jump suits, as they were beheaded on a beach near Tripoli. "The group challenges the Western nations to intervene and save the Christians as it intervened to save the Yazidis and others," Flashpoint Intelligence, a global security firm, reported. Egypt bombed ISIS camps, training sites and weapons storage areas in Libya, hours after the group published the horrific video. Egypt's military said Monday's air strikes were "to avenge the bloodshed and to seek retribution from the killers." In Washington, the White House called the beheadings "despicable" and "cowardly", but made no mention of the victims' religion, referring to them only as "Egyptian citizens" or "innocents." White House press secretary Josh Earnest added that the terror group's "barbarity knows no bounds." The UN Security Council meanwhile strongly condemned what it called "the heinous and cowardly murders." Pope Francis also denounced the slayings, saying the Egyptian Coptic Christians were "assassinated just for being Christian." The killings raise the possibility that the extremist group - which controls about a third of Syria and Iraq in a self-declared caliphate - has established a direct affiliate less than 500 miles from the southern tip of Italy. One of the terrorists in the video makes direct reference to that

possibility, saying the group now plans to "conquer Rome." Italian Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti said Sunday that her country was ready to lead a coalition of countries - European and North African - to stop the terrorists' advance. (NBC/BBC/Fox/CBS) Pray for those who mourn in the wake of this latest ISIS atrocity. Intercede for G-d's hand of mercy to turn back mounting terrorist attacks, kidnappings and slaughter of Christians in Egypt and across the Middle East.

NETANYAHU TO EUROPEAN JEWS: TERROR ATTACKS IN EUROPE WILL CONTINUE, ISRAEL IS YOUR HOME: Murderous attacks on Jews in Europe because they are Jews are likely to continue, PM Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday, calling for the continent's Jews to immigrate to Israel. Netanyahu's comments, according to government officials, are based on Jerusalem's assessment that the current wave of Islamic anti-Semitic violence is not on the wane, and is going to get worse. Netanyahu on Sunday urged European Jews to move to Israel after a Jewish man was killed in an attack outside Copenhagen's main synagogue. "Israel is your home. We are preparing and calling for the absorption of mass immigration from Europe," Netanyahu said, repeating a similar call made after attacks by Islamic extremists in Paris last month that killed 17 people, including four Jews. "Extremist Islamic terrorism has struck Europe again. Jews have been murdered again on European soil only because they were Jews," Netanyahu said. The Israeli prime minister said his government was to adopt a \$45 million plan to encourage the absorption of immigrants from France, Belgium and Ukraine. "To the Jews of Europe and to the Jews of the world I say that Israel is waiting for you with open arms," Netanyahu said. (Jerusalem Post/News Max) Continue to pray that Jews throughout Europe and the world will respond with decisive action to the summons of the Holy Spirit to return to Israel.

EUROPEAN LEADERS URGE JEWS TO REMAIN IN EUROPE: Jewish citizens are an integral part of the country, French, German and Danish leaders say. European heads have urged Jews to stay in their countries, following a call by Israel PM Netanyahu to move to Israel. "France is wounded with you and France does not want you to leave. The place for French Jews is France," said French PM Manuel Valls. The country's president, Francois Hollande, added on Monday "Jews have their place in Europe and, in particular, in France." Their statements came after a Danish synagogue was one of the targets of a shooting on Sunday and after a few hundred Jewish graves in a north-eastern French town Sarre-Union were vandalized. German Chancellor Angela Merkel likewise said "we would like to continue living well together with the Jews who are in Germany today." "We are glad and thankful that there is Jewish life in Germany again," noted Merkel. Denmark's chief rabbi Jair Melchior for his part said he was "disappointed" by Netanyahu's call to European Jews to make their homes in Israel, telling journalists "People from Denmark move to Israel because they love Israel, because of Zionism, but not because of terrorism." Austria on Monday joined in on the calls to local Jews to remain in the country, despite recent terrorist attacks in Europe. Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz said that "a Europe without Jews would not be Europe." Despite these

appeals from government leaders, an increasing number of European Jews have been voting with their feet by leaving Europe for Israel, according to the Jewish Agency. (CNN)

ADL TO EUROPEAN LEADERS: COPENHAGEN ATTACKS A 'WAKE-UP CALL': The Anti-Defamation League expressed "shock and outrage" Monday over Saturday's Copenhagen attacks which left two dead and five injured. The League said the shootings against a synagogue and a controversial cartoonist in Denmark "should serve as another wake-up call to all of Europe" to the continued clear and present danger posed by individuals motivated by radical Islam. Killed in the attacks were Dan Uzan, 37, a member of the Copenhagen Jewish community who was guarding a celebration at a Jewish community building near the synagogue, and Finn Nørgaard, a filmmaker. "What kind of madness is this when a Jewish community cannot celebrate a bat mitzvah without fear of attack? The attacks in Copenhagen are tragic reminders that Islamic extremists target Jews and democratic freedoms together," ADL National Director, Abraham Foxman, stated. "As with the recent terror attacks in Paris, once again we see that anti-Semitism is at the core of Islamic extremist ideology. With Jews in the crosshairs, there is an urgent need for European leaders to act quickly and effectively to ensure their safety," he concluded. Danish authorities have named the terrorist who murdered two people Saturday: Omar Abdel Hamid Hussein, 22, who was born in Denmark. Hussein swore fidelity to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in a posting made on his Facebook page just before the weekend shooting spree. (Arutz-7) Pray for USA and European leaders to wake up to the deafening implications of continuing terrorist attacks on their own home turf. Intercede for a united, effectual coalition to deal immobilizing blows to terrorist organizations such as ISIS and to those who further Islamic extremist ideology through the social media and other means.

HUNDREDS OF GRAVES DESECRATED AT JEWISH CEMETERY IN FRANCE: Hundreds of graves have been vandalized at a Jewish cemetery in eastern France, in what the president called an "odious and barbaric" anti-Semitic act against French values. The incident was of an unusually large scale, and hit a cemetery that has been vandalized in the past. About 200 grave stones were knocked down, and a monument to Holocaust victims was damaged. French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said Sunday that authorities will do "everything" to pursue the vandals. The destruction comes at a time of growing insecurity among French Jews and amid general religious tensions in Europe, after Islamic radicals attacked a kosher market and a satirical newspaper in Paris last month and similar attacks hit Denmark over the weekend. French President Francois Hollande said in a statement that "France is determined to fight relentlessly against anti-Semitism and those who want to attack the nation's values." Hollande visited the Danish Embassy in Paris on Sunday, and a crowd waving candles gathered to show solidarity with the victims of the Copenhagen attacks. Many French Jews feel increasingly worried about anti-Semitism, particularly coming from young Muslims who embrace radical ideology propagated online. (CBS)

YEMEN'S LAST JEWS CONSIDER EXODUS AFTER ISLAMIST TAKEOVER:

A few worried families are all that remain of Yemen's ancient Jewish community, and they too may soon flee after a Shi'ite Muslim militia seized power in the strife-torn country this month. Harassment by the Houthi movement - whose motto is "Death to America, death to Israel, curse the Jews, victory to Islam" - caused Jews in recent years to largely quit the northern highlands they shared with Yemen's Shi'ites for millennia. But political feuds in which the Jews played no part escalated last September into an armed Houthi plunge into the capital Sanaa, the community's main refuge from which some now contemplate a final exodus. Around six Yemeni Jews from the same family arrived in Israel on Friday. (Jerusalem Post) Pray the last of Yemen's harassed and endangered Jews will hurry home to Israel.

LIBERMAN TELLS US JEWISH LEADERS: IT'S TIME FOR MASSIVE ALIYA:

Israel needs an influx of millions of Diaspora Jews, Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman told representatives of American Jewry during a speech Sunday. "It is clear that today maybe it is time to take real decisions and the real decision is to make aliya and to come to Israel," Liberman told members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations on their annual Israel mission. "With all due respect to all Jewish communities, you know exactly what happens today with assimilation, not just with anti-Semitism and terror threats. I think there is only one place for all Jewish people: Israel." Speaking before the group last year, Liberman said Jerusalem's goal must be to bring 3.5 million Jews from the Diaspora on aliya in the next decade to boost the Jewish population in Israel to more than 10 million. Reiterating that call Sunday, Liberman asserted that many of the problems facing the country, including the conflict with the Palestinians, could be resolved if such a population increase is achieved. "If we had that many, we could resolve all problems despite all friends and enemies," he asserted. European immigration to Israel has been rising steadily as daily harassment of Jews and a succession of terrorist attacks, such as the shooting of a Jewish security guard outside of a Copenhagen synagogue on Saturday, contribute to the outflow. (Jerusalem Post)

DRILLING COMMENCES AT GOLAN HEIGHTS OIL EXPLORATION SITE:

Drilling was set to begin at a Golan Heights oil exploration site in the late night hours of Monday, the company announced that evening. The project, which is being implemented by Afek Oil and Gas, involves three years of exploration for conventional oil using up to 10 wells. The company chose site No. 5 out of 10 to start with, located near Moshav Natur, a former kibbutz on the southern Golan Heights. Preparatory work for the drilling, including rig assembly, began at the end December. "I'm extremely happy with the work crews, with the quality of the work," Afek Oil CEO Geoffrey Rochwarger said Monday night. (Jerusalem Post)

RAIN CONTINUES TO DRENCH ISRAEL: As exceptionally wintry weather engulfs Israel, snow has covered the northern Golan while thunderstorms have pounded coastal

cities. Rains continued to wash over sections of Israel on Friday, with the country's northern and coastal areas experiencing passing thunderstorms. Cities along the coast are on alert for potential flooding. Israel's highest point, on Mount Hermon, has undergone another snow storm, with the upper Galilee and northern Golan Heights covered in white in the early morning hours. Flood alerts are in place for the Jordan Valley and the Judean desert. (Ynet)

SYRIAN ARMY, HEZBOLLAH LAUNCH ATTACK TO CAPTURE TERRITORY NEAR GOLAN HEIGHTS: The Syrian army and its terrorist ally, Hezbollah, launched a joint attack last week aimed at capturing a swath of territory abutting the Israeli-held Golan Heights from rebel forces, opening a possible new front for the Israeli army to contend with. Iran, which has acknowledged sending military advisers and high-ranking officers from its Revolutionary Guard to assist in the operation, is believed to be behind the strategic move. The establishment of Hezbollah bases on Syrian territory opposite the Golan would enable the Lebanese terrorist organization to strike at Israel without risking retaliation against Lebanon. Since a ceasefire was signed by Syria and Israel in the wake of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Syria has kept its border with Israel peaceful. Neither President Bashar Assad nor his father and predecessor as president, Hafez Assad, wished to risk retaliation from Israel by permitting infiltration or harassment across the border. However, the central role Iran is playing in supporting Damascus in the Syrian civil war, both economically and militarily, means that the Syrian regime cannot lightly dismiss Iranian interests. These interests include making Hezbollah a credible military force capable of deterring Israel from striking at Iran's nuclear infrastructure. Last week's battles, which included tanks and artillery on the Syrian side, are the heaviest in the area since the civil war began four years ago. The Syrian army and Hezbollah are within five miles of the border. Israel has said it will not permit the area adjacent to the border to become a Hezbollah base of operations, which raises the possibility of a direct confrontation. (Wash. Free Beacon)

IDF SAYS 'MATTER OF TIME' BEFORE ISIS IN SINAI TARGETS TOWNS NEAR EGYPT BORDER: Israeli military officers believe that "it is only a matter of time" before the radical Islamic State jihadist organization attempts to "employ its significant military capabilities" against towns and cities that straddle the border with the Sinai Peninsula. A senior officer serving in the IDF Engineering Corps said Friday that the Israeli military spent the past year preparing for anticipated hostile actions from armed Islamist groups in Sinai. Lt. Col. Gilad Avralinzi, an engineering officer serving in the 80th Division said the border fence that was constructed along the Israel-Sinai frontier will during the course of the next year be outfitted with sophisticated electronics and surveillance equipment, including cameras, optics, and radars. The 80th Division has been assigned responsibility for 450 kilometers of the borders that Israel shares with both Egypt and Jordan. Last month, the Egyptian affiliate of Islamic State claimed coordinated attacks that killed at least 30 security personnel in the Sinai Peninsula. While most of the worst attacks have hit Sinai - a remote but strategic region bordering Gaza, Israel and

Egypt's Suez Canal - smaller blasts and attacks have become increasingly common in Cairo and other cities. (Jerusalem Post)

EGYPT READY FOR LIBYA EVACUATIONS AS ISIS HOSTAGE PHOTOS EMERGE: Egypt has offered to evacuate its citizens from Libya after Islamic State (IS) released photos which show 21 Coptic Egyptians kidnapped there. President Fattah al-Sisi said Egyptians would be airlifted out of Libya. It came as a relative of one of those kidnapped reported that the victim's family had "collapsed emotionally." A number of Egyptian Coptic Christians were kidnapped in two raids in Sirte, Libya, in December and January. The pictures released by IS were published in the latest online edition of the group's magazine Dabiq. Speaking on Friday, an uncle of one of the kidnapped men said there was "an atmosphere of complete devastation" in his village following the publication of the pictures. The IS photographs show the captives with their hands cuffed behind their backs being marched in single file, led by masked men dressed entirely in black. The hostages are dressed in bright orange jumpsuits - the type worn by captives about to be executed by IS. Relatives of the kidnapped victims have called on Egyptian President al-Sisi to help. However, members of the Coptic community in Egypt have expressed skepticism about the offer to airlift people out of the country. (BBC)

POLL: AMERICANS BELIEVE ISIS 'GREATEST THREAT' TO USA: Americans believe the Islamic State group poses the most serious threat to the United States in the next decade, according to a poll released Friday. Eighty-four percent of those quizzed by Gallup said ISIS jihadists, who have grabbed large areas of Iraq and Syria in a brutal onslaught, and terrorism in general presented a "critical threat." Respondents put the possible development of nuclear weapons by Iran as the next most serious danger, followed by the "military power of North Korea." Only 49% of those polled said the military power of Russia was the gravest threat to the US, and 44% were worried about the Russia-Ukraine conflict. "In a winter that has seen acts of unspeakable terrorism, with Obama seeking authorization for military action against the Islamic State, Americans are clearly concerned about Islamic militants and terrorists," Gallup said. (Arutz-7)

HAMAS ATTACK TUNNELS REMAIN THE GREATEST THREAT TO ISRAEL: The IDF's controlled explosion of a tunnel last week is a symbolic act that completes the achievement of one of the most important goals of last summer's Gaza war - the destruction of some 30 Hamas attack tunnels. The tunnel, found to contain old weaponry, was destroyed in order to prevent Hamas from using it again in a future war. Hamas did indeed suffer damaging blows in the war. The uncovering and destruction of the tunnels was one of the heaviest blows dealt to the organization. The IDF estimates, however, that it is just a matter of time until the next round of fighting. It could be a matter of months. There is one undisputed point agreed upon in the defense establishment: Hamas is continuing in its efforts to learn lessons from the war and rehabilitate its military capabilities. A week does not go by without reports of the

organization carrying out rocket-launching experiments from different sites in the Strip, westward into the sea. In the past six months, since the conclusion of the Gaza war, Hamas is believed to have made several hundred rockets, good for various ranges, of the types used during Operation Protective Edge. Hamas is also trying to divert building materials and cement to reconstructing the tunnels. Hamas has begun digging them again with the understanding that they are a strategic tool which must be updated and improved, as well as doing everything possible to make it more difficult for Israel to detect and uncover them in the future. (J. Post)

UN CALLS FOR A THREE YEAR TRUCE FOR HAMAS TO REBUILD: A top United Nations (UN) official warned on Thursday that another war will break out in Gaza, calling on Israel to lift its "blockade" and for Hamas - the terrorist organization with the genocide of Jews written in its charter - to stop fighting. The UN also called for an additional \$705 million in humanitarian aid to Gaza and Palestinian Authority (PA) held Judea & Samaria, with most of it for Gaza which was highly damaged in Hamas' third full-blown terror war on Israel last summer. (Arutz-7) *Hamas, always acting true to its well established patterns, will simply use UN humanitarian aid to rebuild its terrorist tunnels and restock its arsenal for the next war against Israel. The Hamas terrorist organization has proven time and again it cares nothing about building a strong, self-sufficient society or taking care of its own. It prefers to attack Israel time and again to its own destruction. What a waste of time and money, what piteous goals.*

ARGENTINA'S PRESIDENT FORMALLY ACCUSED OF TERROR ATTACK COVER-UP: Argentine President Cristina Kirchner was formally accused Friday of shielding Iranian officials from prosecution over a 1994 bombing at a Buenos Aires Jewish center that killed 85 people and wounded more than 200. The prosecution move advances the case against Kirchner that was being pursued by late prosecutor Alberto Nisman before he died mysteriously on the eve of congressional hearings on his accusations. Kirchner has been under fire since Nisman turned up dead after accusing her of covering up the involvement of high-ranking Iranian officials in the deadly bombing in exchange for oil. It has since been revealed that Nisman had drafted arrest warrants for Kirchner and for Foreign Minister Hector Timerman before he was found dead. The new prosecutor in the case, Gerardo Pollicita, accepted Nisman's conclusions and accused Kirchner, Timerman and other government officials of mounting a cover-up and violating their duties. (Arutz-7)

ISRAELIS HELPING TO SAVE AFRICA'S ENDANGERED ANIMALS: African poachers slaughter at least 35,000 elephants each year for their ivory. The danger to law enforcers has increased in the past three years along with the price of ivory. Israeli Nir Kalron is working to strengthen the continent's environmental security. Kalron's Maisha Consulting conducts anti-poaching and anti-trafficking intelligence and investigations, installs security technology, and trains rangers to more effectively clamp down on criminal activity. In cooperation with African governments, Maisha's seven-person team

teaches local rangers intelligence analysis and data management; weapons and tactics; aviation; first aid; dog handling; sea rescue; hand-to-hand combat; arresting suspects and stopping vehicles. (Israel21c)

IRAN MARKS REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY WITH CALLS OF ‘DEATH TO AMERICA, ISRAEL’: On Wednesday, Iran marked the 36th anniversary of its 1979 Islamic Revolution with massive rallies at which many participants chanted anti-US and anti-Israel slogans, calling for their downfall. Millions gathered in Tehran, Iran’s capital, and other cities, as the call “Down with America” and “Death to Israel” were heard everywhere. The negotiations between Iran and the US regarding Iran’s nuclear aspirations were also highlighted at the events. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, addressing a crowd of thousands in Tehran’s Azadi (Freedom) Square, pledged to “spare no effort” to protect the Islamic Republic’s assumed rights to nuclear power in the negotiations with the P5+1 powers. “The sanctions have not forced Iran to enter the talks,” Rouhani boasted. “The impracticality of the all-out pressures on Iran and the significant advancements in Iran’s peaceful nuclear program made the United States come to the negotiation table. Iran is seeking a ‘win-win’ outcome in the nuclear talks with world powers,” Rouhani said. A woman who attended the rally said the nuclear talks have likely inspired Iranians to take part in commemorations. “This year, we have turned out bigger than before because of the ongoing nuclear talks, to make America understand it cannot achieve its goals in these talks.” (United With Israel) *Iran is the main supporter of Hezbollah and Palestinian terror groups that constantly add to their advanced weapon’s arsenals and plan attacks against Israel. Iran (less than a 1000 miles away from Jerusalem), continues its lawless advancement towards obtaining nuclear arms with an eye towards annihilating the Jewish state. Urgent is the need for intercession that Israel will know what to do - and at what point in time - in order to protect itself against the Islamic Republic.*

NOBEL WINNER ELIE WIESEL LENDS SUPPORT FOR NETANYAHU’S CONGRESS SPEECH: Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel is lending his support to Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's March 3 speech to Congress on the dangers of Iran's nuclear program - an address that has antagonized the White House. An outspoken New Jersey Orthodox rabbi, Shmuley Boteach, said on Thursday he is placing full-page advertisements in two of the leading US newspapers, The New York Times and The Washington Post, featuring Wiesel's endorsement of Netanyahu's speech. The advertisement quotes Wiesel as saying he plans to attend Netanyahu's address "on the catastrophic danger of a nuclear Iran." Awarded the Nobel in 1986, Wiesel asks Obama and others in the ad: "Will you join me in hearing the case for keeping weapons from those who preach death to Israel and America?" Boteach said: "There's no personality more respected in the global Jewish community and few in the wider world than Elie Wiesel. He is a living prince of the Jewish people. He is the face of the murdered 6 million (Jews killed in the Holocaust). So I think that his view on the prime minister's speech sounding the alarm as to the Iranian nuclear program carries a

unique authority that transcends some of the political circus that has affected the speech," Boteach said. Blindsided by the invitation that Republicans in Congress extended to Netanyahu, President Barack Obama has declined to meet the Israeli leader, citing what he has said is US protocol not to meet world leaders before national elections, due to take place in Israel on March 17. (Jerusalem Post)

ISIS FIGHTERS SEIZE IRAQI TOWN NEAR BASE HOLDING US MARINES:

Islamic State fighters reportedly seized most of a western Iraqi town on Thursday, in fighting taking place mere miles from an air base where hundreds of US Marines are training Iraqis. According to military sources, eight suicide bombers managed Friday to get onto a sprawling Iraqi military base where the Marines are training their Iraqi counterparts, but were killed by an ISF counter attack almost immediately. Sources confirmed the attackers made it onto the secluded base but made it "nowhere near" the American forces on the site before they were killed. The Al Asad air base where 320 US Marines are stationed training Iraqi forces, is a mere 13-minute drive from al-Baghdadi. Terrorists attacked the town of Al-Baghdadi from two directions before advancing inward. The development comes as the US-led coalition continues to launch airstrikes against ISIS, with Jordan taking on a greater role following the brutal execution of a captured Jordanian pilot at ISIS' hands. American aid worker Kayla Mueller's death – which was blamed on ISIS – also was confirmed earlier this week. Citing the deaths of Mueller and other American captives, President Obama on Wednesday asked Congress to give formal approval to use military force against ISIS. Obama said the group poses a "grave threat" and could threaten the US homeland if left "unchecked." (White House/Fox/CBS)

20,000 FOREIGN FIGHTERS FLOCK TO SYRIA, IRAQ TO JOIN

TERRORISTS: Foreign fighters are streaming into Syria and Iraq in unprecedented numbers to join the Islamic State or Iraq and Syria (ISIS) or other extremist groups. The numbers include at least 3,400 from Western nations among 20,000 from around the world, US intelligence officials say in an updated estimate of a top terrorism concern. Intelligence agencies now believe that as many as 150 Americans have succeeded in reaching in the Syrian war zone. Nick Rasmussen, chief of the National Counterterrorism Center, said the rate of foreign fighter travel to Syria is without precedent, far exceeding the rate of foreigners who went to wage jihad at any other point in the past 20 years. US officials fear that some of the foreign fighters, who come from 90 countries, will return undetected to their homes in Europe or the US to mount terrorist attacks. Rep. Michael McCaul, the Texas Republican who chairs the committee, said that the Syrian war had created "the largest convergence of Islamist terrorists in world history." Sustained bombing by a US-led coalition has not stopped the inflow, he noted. "I am worried about our ability to combat this threat abroad, but also here at home," McCaul said. (CBS)

ISLAMIC STATE HAS GROWN TO SIZE OF BELGIUM: The House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee Chairman, Michael McCaul, said

Wednesday the Islamic State "now controls territory the size of Belgium, governs millions of people, draws on billions of dollars in revenue and commands tens of thousands of foot soldiers. Through Hollywood-like propaganda videos and social media, Islamist terror groups are inciting their followers and potential recruits to wage war at home. Both ISIS, and Yemen-based al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula have called for Westerners, including Americans, to wage individual jihad in their home countries, and it's working." (Washington Times)

JORDAN MOVES THOUSANDS OF TROOPS TO IRAQ BORDER: Jordan has deployed "thousands" of troops at its border with Iraq to prevent the infiltration of ISIS fighters, two Jordanian government officials said this week. Jordan's deployment appeared to be "an intensification of ongoing efforts to secure the border to stop movement of men and weapons," according an analyst at Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Center in London. Jordanian air force jets bombed Islamic State terrorists' hideouts on Thursday, resuming the intensified raids that ended at the weekend after three days. The raids are the first the Jordanian military have announced since three straight days of aerial bombing that ended on Saturday in retaliation for the brutal ISIS execution of a Jordanian pilot. (NBC/J. Post)

US INTELLIGENCE SURPRISED BY COLLAPSE OF YEMEN GOVERNMENT: The Obama administration's senior counterterrorism official acknowledged Thursday that the US intelligence community was surprised by the collapse of the US-backed government in Yemen. Nick Rasmussen, who directs the National Counterterrorism Center, said that Yemen's American-funded army failed to oppose advancing Houthi rebels in the same way the US-supported Iraqi military refused to fight Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorists last year. What happened in Iraq with the onslaught of ISIS "happened in Yemen" on "a somewhat smaller scale," he said. Sen. Roy Blunt noted that President Obama recently touted Yemen as a success. Now, it's a "total disaster," Blunt said. Rasmussen also noted that extremists in Libya, Afghanistan, Egypt and Algeria had pledged allegiance to ISIS, suggesting a growing influence of that al Qaeda rival. ISIS is now the dominant extremist group in the Libyan cities of Derna and Benghazi, where a 2012 attack killed four Americans including US Ambassador Chris Stevens, he said. He acknowledged that efforts against al Qaeda's Yemen affiliate, considered one of the most dangerous to Americans, had been significantly diminished by the collapse of the government and this week's evacuation of the US Embassy. (CBS)

IRAQI TERRORISTS DESTROY SYNAGOGUE, TAKE OVER EZRA'S TOMB: Terrorists in Iraq have seized a major synagogue and holy site in Amara, the Elder of Zion blog reported Wednesday - and have already destroyed much of it. According to the Iraqi media site quoted by the blog, the synagogue will become the new southern headquarters of the terrorists, whose name and affiliation are unspecified. The media site also added that Ezra's tomb in the Amara area has also been stripped of its Jewish identity, and may possibly have been destroyed. The move is yet another blow to Iraq's

Jewish community, which the blog notes is down to a mere ten Jews - despite 2,500 years of Jewish life which began with the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem. While both reports decline to specify the name of the terror group, news of the demolition follows multiple reports that Islamic State (ISIS) has systemically destroyed multiple Jewish holy sites in Iraq. Last July, ISIS destroyed the tombs of both the prophet Daniel and Jonah in Mosul, claiming that the graves represent "idolatry." In addition, the Iraqi government itself has de-Judaized several sites throughout Iraq, including Ezekiel's Tomb and the tomb of Joshua the High Priest near Baghdad. (Arutz-7)

UN MOVES TO CHOKE OFF ISLAMIC STATE'S CASH: The UN Security Council on Thursday unanimously tightened sanctions on Islamic State terrorists in an effort to block the revenue they derive from smuggling oil, antiquities and ransoms from kidnapping. US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power told the council that the resolution was "part of a comprehensive strategy to degrade and ultimately destroy" the group. (Wall St. Journal)

Robert I. Solomon: Messianic Rabbi, rabbisolomon@yachad.com

Jeffery Blalock: Ministries Coordinator, jeffery@yachad.com

Yachad Ministries, 950 Pine Grove Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075

E-mail: info@yachad.com, Web Page: www.yachad.com

Phone: 770-641-3000 (ext. 6)

Sharing Yeshua in unity with both Jew and Gentile