

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update March 6, 2015



SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY WAS IN RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA ON THURSDAY IN AN ATTEMPT “TO EASE GULF ARAB CONCERNS ABOUT AN EMERGING DEAL WITH IRAN and discuss ways to calm instability in troubled Yemen and other Mideast nations.” Since the signing of the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) in November 2013, the Gulf states and Israel have expressed increased concerns over Iran’s nuclear program, support for terrorism, and quest for regional dominance. In the wake of the JPOA, an unnamed Saudi official said, “The Saudi government has been very concerned about these negotiations with Iran and unhappy at the prospect of a deal with Iran.” Saudi Arabia worries “that any deal reached would mean Iran would widen their influence in the region.”

Since November 2013, Iran has expanded its role in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen, further escalating regional fears. The New York Times reported that in the operation currently underway to retake the Iraqi city of Tikrit “Iranian-backed Shiite militia leaders said that their fighters made up more than two-thirds of the pro-government force of 30,000.” When interviewed by The Times, Landon Shroder, an intelligence analyst, declared that “[b]y this stage, everybody who observed what happened in Iraq with the Islamic State should know that the main influencer in Iraq is Iran.” In his press conference with Secretary Kerry on Thursday, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal declared, “Tikrit is a prime example of what we are worried about. Iran is taking over the country.”

In his speech before Congress on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu raised the alarm over the potential effects of a nuclear-armed and increasingly aggressive

Iran, saying that the current potential “deal that's supposed to prevent nuclear proliferation would instead spark a nuclear arms race in the most dangerous part of the planet.” Michael Singh, Managing Director and Senior Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said in February that “[the terms of the reported deal] would certainly give every incentive to states which see Iran as their regional rival or as threatening to pursue matching [nuclear] capabilities if not greater capabilities.”

THE BIGGEST CONCESSION THAT AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI WON IN IRAN'S NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE WEST WAS THE “SUNSET CLAUSE,” after which there “would be no legal limits on Iran’s nuclear ambitions,” Ray Takeyh, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, argued Sunday in an op-ed published in The Washington Post. Takeyh noted that “[a] good agreement for the supreme leader, however, has to be technologically permissive and of a limited duration,” and explained how Iran achieved those goals. Since the exposure of Iran’s illicit nuclear program in 2002, its disciplined diplomats have insisted that any accord must be predicated on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which, in their telling, grants Iran the right to construct a vast nuclear infrastructure. In exchange for such a “right,” they would be willing to concede to an inspection regime within the leaky confines of the NPT. And for much of that time, the great powers rebuffed such presumptions from a state that has been censured by numerous U.N. Security Council resolutions and denies the International Atomic Energy Agency reliable access to its facilities and scientists.

As Khamenei held firm, however, the great powers grew wobbly. With the advent of the Joint Plan of Action in November 2013, Iran’s fortunes began to change. Washington conceded to Iran’s enrichment at home and agreed that eventually that enrichment capacity could be industrialized. The marathon negotiations since have seen Iran attempt to whittle down the remaining restrictions, while the United States tries to reclaim its battered red lines. For Khamenei, the most important concession that his negotiators have won is the idea of a sunset clause. Upon the expiration of that clause, there would be no legal limits on Iran’s nuclear ambitions. If the Islamic Republic wants to construct hundreds of thousands of sophisticated centrifuges, build numerous heavy-water reactors and sprinkle its mountains with enrichment installations, the Western powers will have no recourse. And once Iran achieves that threshold nuclear status, there is no verification regime that is guaranteed to detect a sprint to a bomb. An industrial-size nuclear state has too many atomic resources, too many plants and too many scientists to be reliably restrained.

Takeyh observed that “as Khamenei presses toward an accord that will place him in an enviable nuclear position, he can also be assured that technical violations of his commitments would not be firmly opposed. Once a deal is transacted, the most essential sanctions against Iran will evaporate.” Takeyh also observed that “in a region where many dictatorial regimes have collapsed, the Islamic Republic goes on,” and credits Khamenei’s negotiating skills for this outcome, as “he has routinely entered negotiations

with the weakest hand and emerged in the strongest position.” Though the op-ed was published prior to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s historic address before Congress yesterday, the history Takeyh recounts anticipated the “two concessions” Netanyahu critiqued in his speech. That concession [keeping its nuclear infrastructure in place] creates a real danger that Iran could get to the bomb by violating the deal. But the second major concession [the sunset clause] creates an even greater danger that Iran could get to the bomb by keeping the deal. Takeyh’s current concerns about Iran’s nuclear program mark a significant shift in his views. Ten years ago, Takeyh argued that there was no reason to fear Iran, as “its foreign policy is no longer that of a revolutionary state,” and thus, no longer a global threat.

NETANYAHU TO CONGRESS: THE ALTERNATIVE TO THIS BAD IRANIAN DEAL IS A MUCH BETTER DEAL: PM Benjamin Netanyahu told the USA Congress on Tuesday, March 3, 2015: Iran's regime is not merely a Jewish problem, any more than the Nazi regime was merely a Jewish problem. The 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis were but a fraction of the 60 million people killed in World War II. So, too, Iran's regime poses a grave threat, not only to Israel, but also the peace of the entire world. The Iranian regime's founder, Ayatollah Khomeini, exhorted his followers to "export the revolution throughout the world." Iran's goons in Gaza, its lackeys in Lebanon, its Revolutionary Guards on the Golan Heights are clutching Israel with three tentacles of terror. Backed by Iran, Assad is slaughtering Syrians. Backed by Iran, Shiite militias are rampaging through Iraq. We must all stand together to stop Iran's march of conquest, subjugation and terror.

The greatest danger facing our world is the marriage of militant Islam with nuclear weapons. If the deal now being negotiated is accepted by Iran, that deal will not prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. It would all but guarantee that Iran gets those weapons. Iran has defied international inspectors on at least three separate occasions - in 2005, 2006, and 2010. Iran broke the locks, shut off the cameras. Iran was caught operating secret nuclear facilities in Natanz and Qom that inspectors didn't even know existed. Iran could be hiding nuclear facilities we don't know about, and has proven time and again that it cannot be trusted.

And if Iran's intercontinental ballistic missile program is not part of the deal, Iran could have the means to deliver its nuclear arsenal to the far-reaching corners of the Earth, including to every part of the United States. I don't believe that Iran's radical regime will change for the better after this deal. Would Iran be less aggressive when sanctions are removed and its economy is stronger? Would Iran fund less terrorism when it has mountains of cash with which to fund more terrorism?

The world should demand that Iran do three things: First, stop its aggression against its neighbors in the Middle East. Second, stop supporting terrorism around the world. And third, stop threatening to annihilate my country, Israel, the one and only Jewish state. If the world powers are not prepared to insist that Iran change its behavior before a deal is

signed, at the very least they should insist that Iran change its behavior before a deal expires. If Iran doesn't change its behavior, the restrictions should not be lifted. If Iran wants to be treated like a normal country, let it act like a normal country.

Iran's nuclear program can be rolled back well beyond the current proposal by insisting on a better deal and keeping up the pressure on a very vulnerable regime, especially given the recent collapse in the price of oil. If Iran threatens to walk away from the table - and this often happens in a Persian bazaar - call their bluff. They'll be back, because they need the deal a lot more than you do. May Israel and America always stand together, strong and resolute. May we neither fear nor dread the challenges ahead. May God bless the State of Israel and may God bless the United States of America. Thank you. You're wonderful. (Prime Minister's Office)

OBAMA: NO 'VIABLE ALTERNATIVES' TO IRAN AGREEMENT IN PM NETANYAHU'S SPEECH TO CONGRESS: In his address to Congress Israel's PM Netanyahu was both bipartisan and gracious to Obama for all he "has done for Israel." But the power of the speech was its systematic case against the looming nuclear deal. Point by point, he dismantled the emerging details and assumptions of what he called a "very bad deal." The heart of his critique concerned the nature of the Iranian regime as a terror sponsor of long-standing that has threatened to "annihilate" Israel and is bent on regional domination. The Israeli Prime Minister radiated good will, honor, appreciation and courtesy to USA President Obama, his administration and the American people in his address to Congress. Notably lacking has been like respect and acknowledgment of PM Netanyahu on the part of Mr. Obama - who didn't bother to attend the speech - and some of his White House associates. Obama told reporters Tuesday, 3, March, 2015 that as far as he was concerned "there was nothing new in PM Netanyahu's address to Congress panning US-led nuclear talks with Iran. The prime minister didn't offer any viable alternatives," Obama said. Likewise, Democratic Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi slammed Netanyahu's address as "an insult to the intelligence of the United States." (J. Post) *USA politicians, both Democrats as well as Republican, applauded the important points in PM Netanyahu's speech no less than 40 times during his address, many with standing ovations. This and a review of his clear, logical and reasonable alternatives to the present "bad deal" being proposed with Iran, makes one wonder just whose "intelligence," according to Nancy Pelosi, could have possibly been challenged. Did she or perhaps President Obama not understand what the prime minister of Israel is saying? Should someone sit down and explain it to them – patiently go over the important points until they can comprehend the very (common) sense of it all?*

NETANYAHU RESPONDS TO OBAMA: WE DID INDEED PRESENT PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES TO IRAN DEAL: PM Netanyahu landed in Israel on Wednesday, 4 March, 2015 after his two-day trip to Washington saying that "many around the world heard what Israel has to say about the bad deal with Iran." Apparently pushing back against those claiming there was no tactical alternative in his speech,

Netanyahu said that he did indeed present a practical alternative that would extend Iran's break out time by adding new restrictions. He also said that he presented a case for not lifting sanctions until the Iranians stop its hostile actions against neighboring countries and stop threatening to annihilate Israel. Netanyahu said the responses from both Republicans and Democrats were encouraging and that his impression was they both understand why this is a bad deal. (J.Post/Wall St. Journal)

NETANYAHU SPEECH RAISES BURDEN FOR OBAMA ON IRAN NUCLEAR TALKS: President Obama's task of selling a potential nuclear agreement with Iran to a skeptical Congress became far harder this week after an impassioned speech by PM Netanyahu of Israel to lawmakers already nervous about the deal. "The president has a very heavy burden of persuasion here," said former Rep. Lee Hamilton, a Democrat and onetime chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. "That task is made much more difficult when a powerful case is stated against the emerging deal, as the prime minister has done." (NY Times)

ANY DEAL WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS NETANYAHU VOICED: What Netanyahu did in his speech to Congress was raise the bar for Obama. Any deal that the administration signs will have to address the concerns Netanyahu voiced. As administration officials said at the outset of negotiations, no deal is better than a bad one. The Israeli prime minister's speech served to sharpen the focus on what a good deal would look like. One should also recall that the Obama administration has already ignored several developments in which Iran ran through red lines set by the USA without facing the threatened consequences. The deal assumes that USA intelligence services (and the international inspectors) will be able to determine whether Iran is abiding by its commitment to limit its development of nuclear capabilities so that it would remain about a year away from assembling a nuclear weapon. Does the record - from Pearl Harbor to the Yom Kippur War, from the revolution in Iran that brought the current regime to power to the outbreak of the Arab Spring in Tunisia - suggest that this is a valid assumption? (Washington Post/Huffington Post)

SUNNI ARABS SUPPORT NETANYAHU SPEECH: The Saudi-backed Al-Arabiya news channel ran an extremely pro-Israel article on Tuesday 3 March, 2015 by Faisal Abbas, the editor-in-chief of its English website. Abbas commented that "Bibi got it right when it came to dealing with Iran. What is absurd, however, is that despite this being perhaps the only thing that brings together Arabs and Israelis (as it threatens them all), the only stakeholder that seems not to realize the danger of the situation is President Obama, who is now infamous for being the latest pen-pal of the supreme leader of the world's biggest terrorist regime: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (although the latter never seems to write back!)."

In a separate article the Saudi daily Al-Jazirah columnist Dr. Ahmad Al-Faraj supported Netanyahu's decision to speak before Congress against a nuclear deal with Iran. "I will

conclude by saying that Obama is the godfather of the prefabricated revolutions in the Arab world, and he is the ally of political Islam, which is the caring mother of all the terrorist organizations, and he is working to sign an agreement with Iran that will come at the expense of America's longtime allies in the Gulf," said the Saudi writer. "I am very glad of Netanyahu's firm stance and his decision to speak against the nuclear agreement at the American Congress despite the Obama administration's anger and fury," said Faraj. (Jerusalem Post)

PURIM BEGINS IN ISRAEL: Thousands of people in Israel and around the world have begun their Purim celebrations Wednesday night, 5 March, 2015. Purim, one of the most joyous holidays on the Jewish calendar is commemorated in a number of ways. They include the handing out of gifts, generous donations to charity, dressing in costumes, and reading the Scroll of Esther which tells the story of Purim and is named after the Jewish heroine and queen of Persia who helped turn Haman's genocidal plot on its head. Gifts to the poor will be distributed nationwide to ensure that even the poorest have food to eat on this festive holiday. (Arutz-7)

NETANYAHU WARNS PENDING NUCLEAR DEAL 'PAVES IRAN'S PATH TO THE BOMB': Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, on Tuesday March 3, 2015 spoke before the American Congress to appeal to USA President Obama to pull back on nuclear talks with Iran, warning the "bad deal" in the works "paves Iran's path to the bomb" and could lead to a "potential nuclear nightmare." The Israeli leader made his impassioned case Tuesday night in a highly anticipated address in Washington. He claimed the potential deal would make two major concessions which would threaten the security of Israel and the region by retaining Iran's ability to start up a nuclear weapons program. First, any deal would include concessions that would leave Iran with a vast nuclear infrastructure, he said. "Not a single nuclear facility would be demolished," according to the terms of deal, Netanyahu added. Their breakout time would be a year by USA assessments and even shorter by Israeli assessments, he said. He reminded Congress that nuclear inspectors in North Korea had not been able to stop Pyongyang from getting nuclear weapons and they would not be able to stop Tehran either. Second, Netanyahu said the restrictions would "automatically expire" in about a decade. "It's the blink of an eye in the life of a nation," Netanyahu said. The Israeli leader warned that the Western powers' emerging agreement with Iran would all but guarantee that Tehran gets nuclear weapons.

Countering the argument that the alternative to this deal is war, Netanyahu argued that the alternative is actually a "much better deal" - and suggested the USA has the leverage to achieve that. He said that sanctions against Iran should not be lifted until Tehran stops aggression against its neighbors in the Middle East, stops supporting terrorism around the world and stops threatening to annihilate Israel, "the one and only Jewish state." The address was the centerpiece of a controversial visit that has fueled diplomatic tensions between the Obama and Netanyahu administration - and political tensions on Capitol Hill. (Fox)

NETANYAHU TO CONGRESS: USA-ISRAEL ALLIANCE MUST REMAIN ABOVE POLITICS: Israel's PM Netanyahu addressed the USA Congress on Tuesday, 3 March, 2015 saying he regretted that some saw his visit to Washington as political. "That was never my intention," the prime minister said. Despite the controversy, he received a standing ovation from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, and was interrupted roughly 40 times by applause. During his speech, he urged the USA not to "be fooled" by Iran's efforts to oppose the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, a group America is also fighting. Netanyahu said those groups are competing for the crown of militant Islam. "When it comes to Iran and ISIS, the enemy of your enemy - is your enemy, not your friend." he said. "To defeat ISIS but let Iran get nuclear weapons would be to win the battle but lose the war," he added. Netanyahu also blasted the terms of the potential nuclear deal. He said Iran is notorious for playing a game of "hide and cheat" with inspectors. The address comes as Congress also weighs legislation that would trigger more sanctions against Iran if a diplomatic deal fails. Obama opposes that bill and was absent during Netanyahu's speech. (Fox/Arutz-7)

NETANYAHU RECALLS THE JEWISH FESTIVAL OF PURIM IN HIS SPEECH TO CONGRESS: Israel's PM Netanyahu in his speech to Congress on Tuesday night, 3 March, 2015, recalled the story of Purim in which the ancient Persians (today's Iranians) tried to wipe out the Jews, saying that the people were saved by Queen Esther speaking out. Today, Iranian Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is trying to wipe out the Jews, he said. "He spews the worst kind of anti-Semitic hatred. He tweets that Israel must be destroyed." He rejected Iran's claim that it opposes Israel only, and not Jews, by quoting Iranian ally, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah: "If all Jews gather in Israel, it will save us the problem of chasing them around the world [to destroy them]." He rejected the notion that Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was a moderate, saying that the regime is as extremist as ever. "We must all stand together to stop Iran's march of conquest subjugation and terror," Netanyahu said to applause. Jews around the world are celebrating the victorious festival of Purim this week. (Jerusalem Post)

DANGER AHEAD FOR OBAMA ON IRAN: Israel's PM Netanyahu has a credible case to make. Any nuclear agreement that allows Iran to maintain a native uranium-enrichment capability is a dicey proposition; in fact, any agreement at all with an empire-building, Assad-sponsoring, Yemen-conquering, Israel-loathing, theocratic terror regime is a dicey proposition. The deal that seems to be taking shape right now does not fill many who support a diplomatic solution to this crisis with confidence. If Obama sets Iran on the path to the nuclear threshold, he will be forever remembered as the president who sparked a nuclear-arms race in the world's most volatile region, and for breaking a decades-old promise to Israel that the USA would defend its existence. (Atlantic)

JERUSALEMITES EXPRESS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR NETANYAHU'S SPEECH: Citing existential fears – coupled with the perceived

naivete of the Obama administration – residents in the capital’s Zion Square on 2 March, 2015 said they overwhelmingly supported PM Netanyahu’s right to address Israel’s perspective on a nuclear Iran. Despite conceding the diplomatic fallout that such a polarizing Congressional speech would engender, a cross-section of Israelis agreed the consequences are favorable to making a deal with Tehran that could imperil the country’s already tenuous security. “It’s absolutely imperative that he makes our case,” said Ben Levine, a middle-aged tour guide, “which is that it’s ludicrous to let a country like Iran – with its history of contributing to violence all over the world – have even the faintest possibility of creating a nuclear weapon.” Asked about the sharp diplomatic repercussions the speech will likely foment between Israel and its most important ally, Levine said such an outcome pales in comparison to preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear power. (INN)

NETANYAHU FOLLOWING RABIN’S STRATEGIC AGENDA ON IRAN: In 1992, then Israeli PM Yitzhak Rabin considered the Iranian nuclear threat the top priority on his strategic agenda. For over two decades, Rabin's policies on Iran were adopted, extended and adjusted by every successive Israeli leader. When PM Netanyahu addressed the American Congress, he reflected this continuity. There is broad unity in Israel over the substance of Netanyahu’s message regarding the need to confront the reality of the Iranian threat. (J.Post)

WHY NETANYAHU IS CONFRONTING THE WHITE HOUSE: USA President Obama has famously said that he's "got Israel's back" when it comes to Iran. Yet Israeli officials say they have watched over the past several years as the Obama administration has backtracked from its firm stance on Iran's nuclear program to a position that could potentially allow Iran to maintain a significant uranium enrichment program. "What started with zero (centrifuges), then went to a symbolic enrichment capacity of a few hundred. Now it is well known we are speaking about several thousands," Israeli Minister of Intelligence Yuval Steinitz said in an interview with CNN. "We think that the overall goal of the negotiation should be to get rid of the Iranian nuclear threat and not just hold it or restrain it or freeze it." The sense in Israel, and it goes way beyond Netanyahu, is that the president underestimates Iran's duplicity, underestimates Iran's ruthlessness, and the religious imperative behind its ideology," said David Horovitz, editor of the Times of Israel. (CNN/Times of Israel)

SAUDI ARABIA: COLUMNIST STANDS WITH NETANYAHU: A look at Saudi Arabia's news media shows that the Persian Gulf monarchy stands squarely behind PM Netanyahu's efforts Tuesday, 3 March, 2015 in Congress. In an article this week in the Saudi daily Al-Jazirah, columnist Dr. Ahmad Al-Faraj comes out strongly against USA President Obama. "I believe that Netanyahu's conduct will serve our interests, the people of the Gulf," he writes, "much more than the foolish behavior of one of the worst American presidents." Al-Faraj writes that Obama is working to sign a deal with Iran at the expense of America's longtime allies in the Gulf, and that Netanyahu's campaign

against the deal is therefore justified and serves the interests of the Gulf States. Meanwhile, in an interview with the USA television channel al-Hura Monday, 2 March, 2015, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon said that Israel is prepared to cooperate with any Arab Gulf state that feels threatened by the Iranian regime's pursuit of nuclear weapons. Israel will only take military action against Iran if all other options to stall the Islamic Republic's nuclear program fail, Ya'alon added. (MEMRI/Times of Israel)

EXECUTIONS TOP LONG UN LIST OF IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS: Iran had a "deeply troubling" number of executions last year and did not keep a promise to protect ethnic and religious minorities, the United Nations said on Tuesday, 3 March, 2015. The report from the office of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to the UN Human Rights Council catalogued UN concerns about rights violations in Iran against women, religious minorities, journalists and activists. Iran was believed to have executed at least 500 people between January and November 2014 and possibly many more, the report said. Most victims did not get a fair trial and over 80 percent of those executed were drug offenders. "The Secretary-General remains deeply troubled by the continuing large number of executions, including of political prisoners and juveniles," it said, repeating a UN call for a death penalty moratorium and a ban on executing youths. It said Iran had not kept President Hassan Rouhani's promise to "extend protection to all religious groups and to amend legislation that discriminates against minority groups."

"The above-mentioned commitments have not been translated into results," the report said. Tehran also continued a crackdown on freedom of expression, having blocked 5 million websites and jailed journalists. A professional ban on human rights lawyers and harassment of activists were "a setback for the country as a whole," it said. Suspects were tortured, ill-treated, held for months in solitary confinement with no access to a lawyer and risked the death penalty for crimes such as "corruption on earth" and "enmity against God." Two-thirds of women suffer domestic violence, the report said. Girls are forced to marry young, with about 48,450 between the age of 10 and 14 married in 2011, and at least 1,537 under 10 were married in 2012, the report said. (Ynet)

POLL: 84 PERCENT OF AMERICANS VIEW IRAN UNFAVORABLY: 84% of Americans view Iran unfavorably, while only 11% have a favorable view of the country, according to Gallup's World Affairs poll, conducted Feb. 8-11, 2015. 77% say the development of nuclear weapons by Iran is a "critical threat." (Gallup)

BLACK PASTORS URGE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS NOT TO SKIP NETANYAHU SPEECH: The message from a dozen prominent black pastors this week to the Congressional Black Caucus was loud and clear: Don't skip out on Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech. "The thing to me that makes no sense is why the Congressional Black Caucus has teamed up with this current administration against Israel," said Pastor Dexter Sanders of the Rock Center for Transformation in Orlando, Florida. "You have gone against Israel when you decide to protest Prime Minister

Netanyahu, from coming and speaking on behalf of the nation of Israel," Sanders said. "That is a slap in the face to the people of Israel, and it's also a slap in the face of all Bible-believing African-American people in this country." (Washington Times)

PROSOR TO UN: LET LESSONS OF WWII GUIDE YOU ON IRAN: Israel's ambassador to the UN, Ron Prozor, has again warned the General Assembly about the dangers of a nuclear Iran, this time in the context of what the world had learned on the 70th anniversary of World War Two. "We are here to confirm that the responsibility for preventing atrocities rests on our shoulders," Prozor said. "Seventy years ago, with the ashes of World War II still smoldering, the victors of the war came together to establish the UN and ensure that 'Never again' will not be a hollow promise." Prozor pointed to the increased terrorist attacks across the world that threaten peace and security, particularly those attacks and groups sponsored by Iran. "The radical theocracy is working tirelessly to advance its nuclear capabilities, while explicitly threatening to 'eradicate Israel from the face of the Earth,'" he said. "But, let me be perfectly clear – what is at stake is not just the security of Israel; it is the security and stability of the entire world." The UN event took place in the face of an upcoming deadline for the West to make a deal on Iran's nuclear program, which Israel insists will not be used for peaceful means. (Jerusalem Post)

IRAN SAYS IT FIRED 'NEW STRATEGIC WEAPON': Iran has test fired a "new strategic weapon," which it says will play an important role in the future battle against the USA. The test was performed in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, through which about one-fifth of the world's oil passes. "The new weapon will have a very decisive role in adding our naval power in confronting threats, particular by the Great Satan, [the USA]" said Admiral Ali Fadavi, Iran's navy chief. Iranian state TV showed a video of missiles being fired into the sky from under water during daytime. (INN)

EXILED IRANIAN OPPOSITION: TEHRAN HIDING SECRET URANIUM ENRICHMENT SITE: Iran is running a secret uranium enrichment site, an exiled opposition group said on 25 February, 2015. Alireza Jafarzadeh, deputy director of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), said there is a site hidden north east of Tehran. "Despite the Iranian regime's claims that all of its enrichment activities are transparent, it has in fact been engaged in research and development with advanced centrifuges at a secret nuclear site called Lavizan-3," he said. He showed reporters satellite images corresponding to his claims. "Since 2008, the Iranian regime has secretly engaged in research and uranium enrichment with advanced centrifuge machines at this site," Jafarzadeh said. (J. Post)

REPORT: OBAMA THREATENED TO SHOOT DOWN ISRAELI JETS ATTACKING IRAN: President Barack Obama threatened to shoot down Israeli planes in 2014 if they were sent to bomb Iranian nuclear facilities, according to reports attributed to a Kuwaiti newspaper. The Bethlehem-based news agency Ma'an cites

Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Jarida. NAl-Jarida reports that the threat from the White House forced Israeli PM Netanyahu to cancel the planned attack. An Israeli minister on good relations with the Obama administration reportedly tipped Secretary of State John Kerry to the plan and that Obama vowed to shoot down the planes when they crossed over USA-controlled airspace in Iraq.

Al-Jarida quoted "well-placed" sources saying that Netanyahu, Minister of Defense Moshe Ya'alon and then-Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman made the plans for airstrikes after consulting top commanders. In addition to the attacks, Netanyahu and his ministers decided to try to thwart any nuclear deal between the USA and Iran over fears that a nuclear Iran is a threat to Israel's existence. Israeli pilots reportedly trained for weeks on the mission and even were able to fly into Iranian airspace without being detected by radar. Israel's fears of nuclear attack are not new. In 2007, an Israeli airstrike took out a suspected nuclear site in Syria. A 1981 airstrike took out a suspected nuclear reactor in Iraq. (News Max)

IDF INSTALLS CONCRETE BARRIERS ALONG SYRIAN BORDER: The IDF has placed concrete barriers along the Syrian border following the antitank missile attack from Hezbollah last month in the Golan Heights. "Following the increase in threats to IDF soldiers patrolling the border, and for fear of similar events, it was decided to increase in various ways the security measures in the area, including placing concrete blocks," a senior military source stated. On January 28, 2015 Major Yochai Kalengal and Sgt. Dor Chaim Nini were killed after Hezbollah terrorists shot between 4-6 antitank missiles into Israel, near Har Dov in the Golan Heights. The attack also injured six additional soldiers. In the days before the attack, Hezbollah made multiple threats against Israel, after an IAF airstrike in Syria killed one of its senior terrorists, along with five other Hezbollah terrorists and an Iranian general - all of whom were scouting to plan an attack on the Golan Heights. (Israel National News)

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