

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update April 10, 2015



ACCORDING TO FARIS NEWS, IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMMAD JAVAD ZARIF AND THE CHIEF OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION OF IRAN TOLD THE IRANIAN PARLIAMENT that Iran would begin using its most advanced centrifuge as soon as the final agreement between the P5+1 goes into effect, contradicting the American parameters on the understanding between the P5+1 and Iran that was agreed upon last week. The parameters factsheet that the White House released last week clearly stated that “Iran will not use its IR-2, IR-4, IR-5, IR-6, or IR-8 models to produce enriched uranium for at least ten years.” Iran’s most advanced centrifuge is the IR-8, which can enrich uranium 20 times faster than the IR-1 centrifuge. The use of advanced centrifuges would allow Iran to break out to a nuclear weapon in a much shorter amount of time, gravely undermining the one-year breakout criteria President Obama has set for the agreement. In an article pointing out the problematic aspects and dire consequences of the emerging agreement with Iran, former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George Shultz note that this one-year breakout criteria is vastly different from the original US position of granting Iran only a limited technical capacity corresponding to a civilian nuclear program. They argue that because the deal will leave Iran with much of its nuclear infrastructure in place, preventing Iran from breaking out will rely heavily on verification and monitoring. Iran has a history of successfully deceiving the international community so violations will be difficult to detect and enforcing compliance will be challenging because each violation will “prompt a debate over its significance.” Furthermore, the notion of “snapping back” sanctions is misleading as restoring sanctions in cases of Iranian violations will be difficult and time-consuming since it may require a consensus among many different countries, several of which will resist restoring sanctions due to business and trade

demands. Additionally, permitting Iran to continue centrifuge R&D during the agreement means that it will be able to develop advanced centrifuges that it could use to accelerate to a nuclear weapon as soon as the deal expires. The two former Secretaries of State also warn that Sunni Arab states may “conclude that the U.S. has traded temporary nuclear cooperation for acquiescence to Iranian hegemony,” and will seek to match Iran’s nuclear capabilities, thereby triggering regional proliferation and creating more combustible rivalries between nuclear-threshold powers in an already unstable region. Rather than facilitating US disengagement from the Middle East, Kissinger and Shultz argue that such a new regional order will necessitate increased American involvement. Finally, they rebut the idea that a deal with Iran will lead to a productive partnership between the US and Iran, as our fundamental objectives are in conflict with those of the Iranian regime, which espouses a worldview that is intrinsically anti-Western.

THE UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED LAST WEEK REGARDING IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM ARE FULL OF LOOPHOLES, according to a paper (.pdf) written yesterday for Harvard's Belfer Center by Dr. Ephraim Asculai, who worked for the Israel Atomic Energy Commission and is currently a senior research fellow for Israel's Institute of National Security Studies. Asculai pointed to several specific loopholes. He noted that the number of centrifuges allowed by the terms of the deal would allow Iran a breakout time of less than a year. (This estimate is consistent with that of Olli Heinonen, former deputy director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency.) While the understandings reached last week would limit the amount of plutonium produced by the Arak reactor, they don't prohibit other reactors that could produce plutonium. Asculai also faulted the deal for failing to fully address the possible military dimension of Iran's past nuclear work, noting that “[f]or almost two years, the agreement Iran signed with the IAEA on resolving outstanding questions on this subject submitted by the IAEA to Iran has been largely ignored by Iran.” He also noted that the understanding don't address Iran's missile development program at all, even though it is developing missiles capable of delivering a nuclear payload. In addition to these specific critiques, Asculai questioned more general omissions within last week's understandings.

AZIZ KADDAN, ONE OF THE CO-FOUNDERS OF MYNDLIFT, DIDN'T FLINCH when asked in front of an audience at the recent BrainTech conference in Tel Aviv how he plans to go up against the better-funded American companies with his alternative non-drug treatment for attention deficit disorder (ADD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Myndlif uses neurofeedback, also known as electroencephalographic (EEG) biofeedback, to train the brain to focus. It’s a computer-based technique developed and tested by NASA to improve attention, focus and learning. Kaddan, the 22-year-old phenomenon taking Israel’s brain-tech world by storm, knows the path to changing hyperactivity treatment is a tough one but he’s positive his app-based, wearable neurofeedback solution, coupled with specially tailored mobile games that only work through concentration, can increase attention levels with just 10 minutes of play time a day. “I know that I have a product that has a value to a lot of people,” he

said, from his co-working space for high-tech entrepreneurship and innovation at Tel Aviv's public library. Myndlift's idea is to get sufferers of ADD and ADHD off medications like Ritalin, which suppresses appetite and has other negative side effects, and help them focus their minds using a mobile app, neurofeedback and a brain-sensing wearable technology. "Myndlift brings personalized neurofeedback training to mobile, making it easier for people with hyperactivity, professionals in demanding careers, students, athletes and anyone concerned about brain fitness to improve concentration abilities effectively without prescription drugs, inconvenience to visit specialized clinics and huge bills, thus saving thousands of dollars and tens of commuting hours," according to the company's elevator pitch. (via Israel21c)

BIBI COMPARES IRAN DEAL TO CLINTON'S FAILED NORTH KOREA DEAL: Speaking on CNN Sunday, 5 April, 2015, PM Binyamin Netanyahu compared the arguments being made for accepting the nuclear deal with Iran to those made when the USA negotiated a nuclear deal with North Korea in 1994 – and noted that in the end, North Korea got the bomb. "They gave the same arguments about North Korea – it'll make them peaceful, it'll make them moderate, it'll make them abandon their program – and the opposite has happened," Netanyahu said. The prime minister also pointed out that Iran is a great deal more dangerous than North Korea. "It is a militant Islamic power bent on regional and world domination." In the interview, Netanyahu refused to say that he trusts President Barack Obama, despite being asked twice. The deal, he said, "doesn't roll back Iran's nuclear program. Thousands of centrifuges will keep spinning and enriching uranium." Iran will have sanctions lifted "pretty much up front," he added, and the money it will gain will be used "to pump up its military and terror machine. That's a bad deal." "If a country that vows to annihilate us and is working every day with conventional means and unconventional means to achieve that end, if that country has a deal that paves its way to nuclear weapons, many nuclear weapons, it endangers our survival," the prime minister said. "I'll tell you what else will happen," he added. "It will also spark an arms race with the Sunni states," a reference to Egypt and the Gulf monarchies. (Israel National News)

IRAN'S PERSIAN STATEMENT ON "DEAL" CONTRADICTS AMERICAN CLAIMS: There has been no agreement on any of the fundamental issues that led to international concern about Iran's secret nuclear activities. All we have are a number of contradictory statements by various participants in the latest round of talks. The Persian text carefully avoids words that might give the impression that anything has been agreed by the Iranian side or that the Islamic Republic has offered any concessions. The American statement claims that Iran has agreed not to use advanced centrifuges, while the Iranian text insists that "work on advanced centrifuges shall continue." The American text claims that Iran has agreed to dismantle the core of the heavy water plutonium plant in Arak. The Iranian text says the opposite. The USA talks of sanctions "relief" while Iran claims the sanctions would be "immediately terminated." (NY Post)

YA'ALON: IRAN A 'TERRORIST MONSTER' WREAKING HAVOC ON THE MIDEAST: As an onslaught of condemnation from Israeli officials continued to target the framework deal reached last week on Iran's nuclear program, Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon on Sunday, 5 April, 2015 blasted Iran saying, "Iran is a terrorist monster that funds, trains and arms organizations and entities to wreak havoc among the pro-Western regimes in the Middle East and around the world, and it has no intention of stopping this." He added that the agreement reached last week would not pose as an obstacle to Iran, rather it would set the stage for the Islamic Republic to "increase its appetite to spread disarray." The defense minister said the framework agreement between Iran and world powers was "a huge achievement for Iran and a historic mistake for the West." Meanwhile, Economy Minister Naftali Bennett posted on Facebook a list of responses explaining his rejection of the veracity of the text of the initial accord. Bennett summarized his comments by saying the "right course of action is quite simple: Keep the sanctions until Iran gives up their nuclear weapons program. It will take another year, or perhaps five, but it will happen eventually." He noted that as a comprehensive deal has not yet been signed, there is still time to stop this "historical error." (J.Post)

CORKER SAYS HE'S JUST 2 TO 3 VOTES SHY OF OVERRIDING OBAMA VETO: Senator Bob Corker (R-TN), the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman, said this week that the legislation that would force President Obama to bring a deal on Iran's nuclear program before the Senate is close to achieving the support of a veto-proof majority. The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015, sponsored by US Senators Bob Corker (R-TN) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ), would mandate that the president submit to Congress the text of any pact with Iran, and bar the administration from suspending congressional sanctions on Iran for 60 days. Corker said it is "difficult for anyone to ascertain at this moment" just what the deal with Iran contains. In Iran, he noted, "they're reporting sort of the mirror image opposite of what's being reported here. That's why on behalf of the American people, Congress needs to be playing a role," he added. "What the American people may not know is there will be all kinds of classified annexes that are important. They lay out the details as to how much of this is going to take place. And that's why it's vital that Congress play its rightful role in approving this prior to the congressionally mandated sanctions that we put in place being alleviated." (INN)

'SKEPTICAL' CANADA WON'T LIFT IT'S IRAN SANCTIONS: The Canadian government has not shared USA President Obama's enthusiasm over the deal reached with Iran over its nuclear program, by which the Islamic regime continues enriching uranium at reduced levels in exchange for the removal of sanctions. Canadian Foreign Minister Rob Nicholson responded to the deal, warning that the Islamic regime may still be able to obtain nuclear arms even with the agreement. "We have to make every possible diplomatic effort to ensure that Iran will never be able to achieve the ability to develop a nuclear weapon," said Nicholson, noting such a development could spark a nuclear arms race in the Middle East. The foreign minister added that "Iran's track record is not one

that encourages trust." Canada will continue to judge Iran based on its actions and not on its words, concluded Nicholson. James Bezan, the parliamentary secretary to Defense Minister Jason Kenney said that Canada will only consider removing sanctions on Iran if it is sure the latter "finally and honestly" neutralizes the military aspects of its nuclear program. "Until then, we are going to be very conscientious and skeptical of the outcome here," concluded Bezan. (INN)

IRAN TRANSFERS MILLIONS TO HAMAS FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF TUNNELS: Iran has stepped up its efforts to support Hamas in Gaza, transferring tens of millions of dollars to Izzadin Kassam, Hamas' military wing, to help with rebuilding efforts, the UK Telegraph revealed Sunday, 5 April, 2015. The funds have reportedly been allocated to the rebuilding of tunnels and restocking of missile arsenals destroyed by Israel during Operation Protective Edge. Iran's renewed support is a sign of a revival in Iran-Hamas relations. In addition to backing Hamas, Iran has been funding the Shi'ite Houthi rebels in Yemen, and Shi'ite Iraqi government forces in Tikrit. A Western security official told reporters that the Iranians are "trying very hard to increase their influence throughout the Middle East region." (J. Post)

'ARAB LEAGUE TO SUBMIT DETAILED TIMETABLE FOR AN END TO ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION': Egypt's foreign minister, Sameh Shoukry, said this week that a special committee of Arab League ministers will publish a detailed timetable "for an end to Israel's occupation." The committee's formation is in line with a decision taken by the Arab League during its recent summit in the Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh. According to Shoukry, Arab governments will soon submit a draft resolution to the UN Security Council that contains detailed provisions for an Israeli withdrawal from Judea & Samaria. (J.Post)

PA REJECTS ISRAELI TAX TRANSFER: Though Israel will return the taxes it has been withholding to the Palestinian Authority, PA President Mahmoud Abbas is still not pleased. He complained that Israel deducted the costs of utilities from the returned funds. "We are returning the money. Either they give it to us in full or we go to arbitration or to the International Criminal Court. We will not accept anything else," he declared. Israel provides the PA with a number of services, including electricity, though repayment is often ignored. In February, 2015, Israel's electric company briefly cut power in some Palestinian cities to try and pressure the PA into paying its \$492 million bill. (INN)

PLO URGES WORLD INTERVENTION TO AVERT 'HEARTBREAKING CATASTROPHE' AT DAMASCUS REFUGEE CAMP: The Palestine Liberation Organization over the weekend, urgently appealed to the international community on behalf of thousands of refugees ensnared in the ongoing fighting at the Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus. ISIS terrorist have taken control of 90 percent of the Palestinian refugee camp on the Damascus outskirts where 18,000 civilians have suffered years of bombing, army siege and militia control, a monitoring group said. The hardline group's

offensive in Yarmouk gives it a major presence in the capital. The most powerful insurgent group in Syria, is now only a few kilometers from President Bashar Assad's seat of power. Meanwhile, ISIS soldiers have set about beheading Palestinian fighters and civilians alike in areas under its control in a grisly campaign of retribution, posting evidence of its atrocities online. (Jerusalem Post/Arutz-7)

DOZENS KILLED BY TERRORISTS DRESSED AS PREACHERS IN NIGERIA: Terrorists from Boko Haram, dressed as preachers, killed at least 24 people near a mosque in Nigeria Monday, 6 April, 2015. The terrorists pretended to talk about religion in order to draw listeners closer, then opened fire. (Israel National News)

130,000 TOURISTS EXPECTED IN ISRAEL FOR PASSOVER, EASTER: Some 130,000 Jewish and Christian tourists are expected to visit Israel to celebrate Passover and Easter. Jewish holidays follow a lunar calendar, and Christian holidays a solar calendar, but sometimes they overlap. This year, Jews in Israel began the 7-day celebration of Passover on Friday night, 3 April, 2015 while Christians celebrated Good Friday and Easter Sunday the same weekend. The juxtaposition means tens of thousands of tourists clogging Jerusalem's narrow alleyways, and potential clashes between Israeli police and Palestinian youths. "General standard security measures have been implemented in Jerusalem with an emphasis on the Old City" where the religious sites are clustered, Jerusalem police spokesman Mickey Rosenfeld told media sources. (Ynet)

150,000 ISRAELIS VISIT NATIONAL PARKS, NATURE RESERVES ON PASSOVER: After retelling the story of the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt the night before, Israelis took to nature on Saturday 4 April, 2015 with an estimated 150,000 visitors arriving at nature reserves, national parks and the Sea of Galilee. Among the popular sites were: The Banias Nature Reserve, the Caesarea National Park, the Yarkon and Tel Afek National Park, Ein Gedi nature reserve and Avshalom Stalactites Cave. The Sea of Galilee beaches saw 30 percent occupancy, where many Jewish families came to celebrate Passover and Christian Arab families came to celebrate Easter. For the first time this early in the season, lifeguard stations were operating, even though the official bathing season has not yet begun. Visitors will be able to enjoy free tours on the Kinneret Trail throughout the week. (Ynet)

IRAN WILL CONTINUE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR NUCLEAR PROGRAM DESPITE DEAL: Iran and world powers on Thursday 2 April, 2015 announced that following the latest round of nuclear negotiations, Western powers agreed to permit Iran to continue operating the core aspects of its nuclear program and that all sanctions of the Islamic Republic would be terminated. After failing to meet a March 31, 2015 deadline for the announcement of a firm political agreement, Secretary of State John Kerry and Javad Zarif, his Iranian counterpart, conducted a series of post dead-line meetings aimed at hashing out a statement of progress - a far cry from the detailed document officials vowed would be finalized by now. The sides continue to

disagree over Iranian demands that it be permitted to continue key nuclear research and granted the ability to ramp its program up to industrial capacity after a decade. However, Zarif said many of these issues are closer to being resolved. "None of those measures will move to scale back Iran's program "include closing any of our facilities," Zarif said. "We will continue enriching; we will continue research and development. Our heavy water reactor will be modernized and we will continue the Fordow facility," Zarif said. "We will have centrifuges installed in Fordow, but not enriching." The move to allow Iran to keep centrifuges at Fordow, has elicited concern that Tehran could ramp up its nuclear work with ease. Zarif said that once a final agreement is made, "all USA nuclear related secondary sanctions will be terminated," he said. (Washington Free Beacon)

NETANYAHU TO OBAMA: IRAN DEAL THREATENS ISRAEL'S SURVIVAL: PM Binyamin Netanyahu spoke to President Barack Obama on Thursday evening 2 April, 2015 and expressed Israel's strong opposition to the framework agreement with Iran. "A deal based on this framework would threaten the survival of Israel," Netanyahu told Obama. "Just two days ago, Iran said that 'the destruction of Israel is non-negotiable,' and in these fateful days Iran is accelerating the arming of its terror proxies to attack Israel. This deal would legitimize Iran's nuclear program and bolster Iran's economy. It would increase the risks of nuclear proliferation in the region and the risks of a horrific war. The alternative is standing firm and increasing the pressure on Iran until a better deal is achieved," Netanyahu told Obama. The conversation between the two leaders came hours after Obama touted the framework agreement, reached after days of talks in Switzerland, as "an historic understanding with Iran which, if fully implemented, will prevent it from a nuclear weapon." Israeli officials were not convinced, saying that the framework deal will be remembered as a "historic mistake." (INN)

ISRAELI OFFICIALS: IRAN DEAL A 'HISTORIC MISTAKE': Left and right in Israel are united in their opposition to the new framework agreement reached between Iran and six world powers on Tehran's nuclear program. Israeli government officials said, "If an agreement is reached on the basis of this framework, it is an historic mistake which will make the world far more dangerous. The framework gives international legitimacy to Iran's nuclear program, the only aim of which is to produce a nuclear bomb," they added. Meanwhile, MK Yair Lapid wrote on Facebook that "there is no opposition and coalition when it comes to the Iranian nuclear issue. We all share the concern that the Iranians will bypass the agreement, and Israel must protect its security interests. The ayatollah regime in Iran has been engaged in years of fraud and deception and promotes its nuclear program under the nose of the West," he continued. Lapid said that he is convinced that Iran's leaders will try to deceive the international community as they did in the past. MKs Yitzhak Herzog and Tzipi Livni, heads of the "Zionist Union," said that "we are entering a new phase in dealing with the Iranian nuclear threat." (Arutz-7)

BOEHNER: IRAN DEAL AN 'ALARMING DEPARTURE' FROM OBAMA'S GOALS: John Boehner, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, said

Thursday, 2 April, 2015 that the framework nuclear deal between Iran and world powers is an "alarming departure" from President Obama's initial goals. He said Congress must fully review the deal before any sanctions on Iran are lifted. "In the weeks ahead, Republicans and Democrats in Congress will continue to press this administration on the details of these parameters and the tough questions that remain unanswered," Boehner said. Meanwhile, Congressman Peter Roskam, who is co-chairman of the House Republican Israel Caucus, said the talks between Iran and world powers are headed towards a "dangerous" agreement. "One year of talks has only yielded more talks and contours of a dangerous final agreement with Iran that makes no demonstrable progress on the legitimate security concerns of the American people and the international community." (Israel National News)

IDF GENERAL: 'DRAMATIC STEPS' POSSIBLE ON IRAN: Maj. Gen. Nimrod Sheffer, the head of the Israel Defense Forces Planning Directorate, told media sources in a weekend interview that when Israeli leaders say "all options are on the table" with regard to Iran, they mean it. "If someone builds a nuclear bomb and at the same time declares that the State of Israel has no right to exist, then we have to think about how to respond," he said. When asked if Israel might take "dramatic steps" in defiance of the American position, Sheffer answered positively: "When it comes to our national security, the answer is yes." Sheffer was asked even more specifically, if he could envision a situation in which Israeli jets bomb an Iranian nuclear facility in defiance of the USA. "Since it has already happened in the past, I don't see any reason why it shouldn't happen again," he replied. "I think that where Israel feels its existence depends on action, it will take it. I think that any true partner would accept that, and I honestly think that the Americans are in fact true partners, despite all the tension." The nuclear deal between the P5+1 powers and Iran, as it is emerging right now, "will not be a good deal for Israel," he assessed. "If such a deal is ultimately signed, we will have to ask ourselves 'okay, what are we going to do with this?'" (Israel National News)

REPORT: ISRAELI JET STRUCK WEAPONS DEPOTS IN LIBYA: Arab news sources reported at week's end that an unidentified jet believed to be Israeli destroyed warehouses in southern Libya that held weapons bought by Iran for Hamas. According to media sources the warehouses were completely destroyed. The weapons that were inside them had allegedly been purchased by Iran, by means of weapons dealers in Sudan and Chad, and were supposed to be smuggled to Hamas through Egypt, by means of the smuggling tunnels between Sinai and Gaza. The destruction of the weapons stores in southern Libya was carried out in coordination with the Egyptian security and intelligence apparatuses, the reports claimed. Egypt allowed the Israeli jet to pass through its airspace en route to southern Libya. (INN)

'KENYA'S CITIES WILL RUN WITH BLOOD': Somali Islamist terrorists vowed on Saturday 4, April 2015, to wage a long war against Kenya and run its cities "red with blood" after the group's fighters killed nearly 150 people during an assault on a Kenyan

university. Four al Shabaab gunmen conducted a killing spree on Thursday 2 April, 2015 hunting down and executing students in a campus town 120 miles from the Somali border. The raid has put Kenya on heightened alert and alarmed Christian congregations, horrified by survivor testimonies recalling how the terrorists had sought out Christians to kill, while sparing some Muslims. "No amount of precaution or safety measures will be able to guarantee your safety, thwart another attack or prevent another bloodbath from occurring in your cities," the group said in an emailed statement in the Somali capital. "This will be a long, gruesome war of which you, the Kenyan public, are its first casualties." (Jerusalem Post)

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)

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