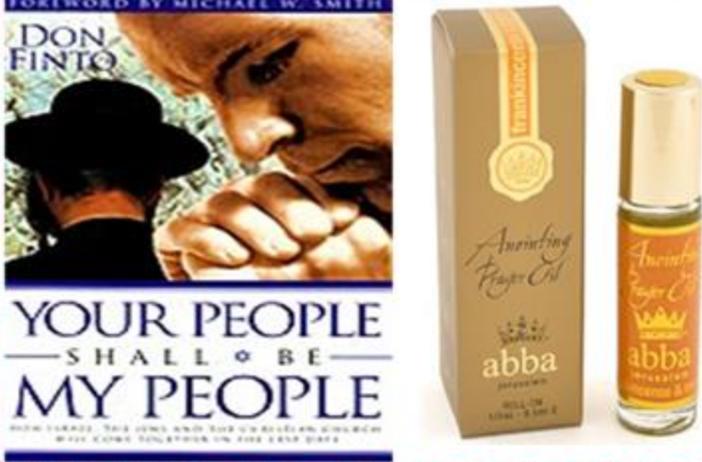


**Yachad Ministries'
Israel's News Update April 24, 2015**

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 'YOUR PEOPLE SHALL BE MY PEOPLE' by Don Finto, with a foreword by Michael W. Smith. The cover art shows a man in a black hat looking down. The perfume bottles are 'Anointed Prayer Oil' by Abba, one in a box and one in a glass bottle.

1.5 MILLION PEOPLE VISIT MILITARY CEMETERIES ON MEMORIAL DAY: According to the Defense Ministry, a million and a half people visited or attended Memorial Day ceremonies held throughout the day, Wednesday 22 April, 2015 at military cemeteries across Israel. In addition, more than 300,000 citizens lit a candle via Facebook in memory of Israel's fallen soldiers. Israel's 67th Independence Day, a time of national celebration, began that evening at dusk. (INN)

ISRAELI COLUMNIST: SOME OF THE MANY REASONS WHY I LOVE ISRAEL: Israeli columnist Barbara Sofer has written in honor of Israel's 67th Independence Day a host of new reasons why she loves Israel: JNN editors thought you might enjoy reading just a few of these delights: Who says we're not traditional? We consume 1,600 tons of honey and 15,000 tons of apples on Rosh Hashana. Seventy- three percent of us fast on Yom Kippur. My supermarket features pins and tape at the entrance before Succot, anticipating the need to hang up children's artwork in the tent-like booths. At the Monday night women's swim, the hijabs and sheitels (wigs) share space on the locker-room benches. Israeli invention: a featherless chicken. Everyone in the country knows the prime minister's favorite flavor of ice cream.

We treat over 90% of our wastewater, more than any other country. Our biggest garbage dump has become a terrific park. Our average public healthcare is ranked superior to that of the United States, and everyone, employed or not, has coverage. Specials at trendy cafés and cinemas for seniors are called “Tuesday with Suspenders.” We take in refugees from both ISIS and al-Qaida and give them medical care.

A new Israeli stamp features the Cyrus Declaration from 538 B.C. in which the Persian king allowed a return to Israel, as reported in the Book of Ezra. The glue on the stamp is kosher. An Israeli porcupine dug up a 1,400-year-old oil lamp. Israel inventions: supermarket carts with smartphone chargers. The advertisement to encourage voting says you forfeit your right to gripe if you don't vote. Over 72% of us vote, Jews and Arabs together. El Al ground crew and flight attendants dress up for Purim. Our national junk food Bamba can prevent a child from developing peanut allergies. The mayor of Jerusalem tackled a terrorist to the ground and protected the city. Israel news headline: Holocaust survivor has 100th great-grandchild. Israel news headline: Baby saved from café terror attack grows up to serve in IDF. Despite complaints about cost of living and security threats, we have nearly twice as many babies, three per woman, as the average in other developed countries.

Israeli scientists have figured out how to grow grapes in winter – and they're seedless, too. Israeli scientists have shown that pomegranates help fight hypertension, heart disease, brain deterioration and heart disease. We have a gazelle herd in a park in the middle of Jerusalem. Israeli invention: a robot that picks watermelons. Don't tell those who shout “apartheid”: Gaza farmers attended a seminar in northern Israel and learned to double their watermelon crop. National Geographic listed Tel Aviv as one of the top 10 seafont city meccas.

The IDF gives telephone and roof-knocking warnings to civilians to evacuate areas while warfare is going on. The Knesset has the largest solar field of any parliament in the world. We score high on the world's happiness tests. We offer sports tours, wine tours, chocolate tours and now the healthy Salad Trail tour of our country. Jewish Agency statistics for 2014 show that immigration to Israel hit a 10-year high with the arrival of about 26,500 new immigrants, the largest group arriving from France. Welcome my brothers, welcome my sisters. (Arutz-7)

NETANYAHU: INDEPENDENCE DAY A ‘RENAISSANCE OF NATIONAL CULTURE’: PM Binyamin Netanyahu spoke in honor of Israel's 67th Independence Day, in a message, which was broadcast during the annual Independence Day event on Mount Herzl, Wed night 22 April, 2015. "Independence Day is an occasion for genuine celebration," he began. "Jews celebrate the rebirth of our national freedom in our historic homeland, the Land of Israel. We celebrate the fact that our people are no longer stateless and powerless. We celebrate the fact that Jews everywhere enjoy the rights they were denied for so many centuries: the right to make Aliyah and be part of the modern state of Israel. We also celebrate Israel's many achievements," he continued. "We've integrated

into our society immigrants from all four corners of the earth. We've successfully defended our freedom against attacks by hostile neighbors. We've literally made the desert bloom, building a vibrant and dynamic high-tech economy," he added.

Netanyahu also stressed Israel's true dedication to human freedoms. "We've built a robust and healthy democracy, where freedom is sacred and human rights are enshrined in our laws for all," he noted. "We've built a society in which all Israel's citizens are equal under the law, Arab and Jew alike. We've witnessed a real renaissance in our national culture," he concluded. "We take pride in Israel's achievements - and even though there is still much work to be done, on this day we can unite and celebrate in Israel's many successes." (Arutz-7)

PRESIDENT RIVLIN HOSTS 'ALL ISRAEL FROM JERUSALEM' CELEBRATION: President Reuven Rivlin and his wife Nechama hosted Thursday morning, 23 April, 2015 the traditional Independence Day celebration entitled, "All Israel from Jerusalem." The event began at 8:40 a.m. with a flyover of military helicopters after which the President and IDF Chief of Staff Gadi Eizenkot reviewed a guard of honor for the 120 IDF officers and soldiers being awarded the medal of excellence. The 120 soldiers chosen represent all branches of Israel's military, the Israel Defense Forces. At 9:30 a.m. began the central performance of the "All Israel in Jerusalem" celebrations, which were held in the Presidential Garden. Notable attendees include PM Binyamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon, Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein, and Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat. This year's celebration featured a salute to Israeli heroes whose life stories are an inspiration of hope for Israel. Specific heroes were personally chosen by Rivlin, Netanyahu and Ya'alon. (Jerusalem Post)

HERMON CLOSED TO VISITORS DUE TO SNOW: Snow in Israel in late April – unheard of in 25 years!! Snow started falling on Mt. Hermon on Thursday, 23 April, Israel's 67th Independence Day, closing the site to visitors. It was the first time in 25 years that snow had fallen on the mountain at this late a date. The Israel Meteorological Service forecast partly cloudy skies with scattered showers in the North, hazy conditions in the South and a chance of isolated showers in the Center throughout the day. (Arutz-7)

BAN KI-MOON TRIES SHAKSHOUKA FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon joined the spirit of Independence Day on Wed. night, 21 April, 2015 eating shakshouka for the first time with Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Ron Prosor. The Israeli dish, traditionally eaten for breakfast, combines poached eggs and tomato sauce. Invited to try the dish by Prosor, in honor of Israel's 67th Independence Day, the two stepped outside of the UN building in Manhattan to a shakshouka food truck called ShukaNYC. (INN)

ISRAEL'S DEBT LEVEL DECLINES: Israel's public debt-to-GDP ratio in 2014 dropped 0.5 percentage point to 67.1%, according to Finance Ministry data released this

week. In 2008, public debt stood at 81.9% of GDP. In the USA public debt stands at 105.6% of GDP. In the euro zone, the average is 107.7%. The average of all OECD countries in 2014 was 94%. (Jerusalem Post)

AMERICAN CARS SET TO INVADE ISRAELI SHOWROOMS: Israelis could soon see a lot more American cars on their roads, after Israel and the United States signed a deal last week that increased cooperation on transportation issues, enhancing the import and export of parts and vehicles. Although it is generally not well known, Israel has a substantial automotive industry, based mostly on parts and technology. Among the better-known Israeli car exports is the MobilEye safety system, which alerts drivers when they get too close to the vehicle in front of them. The deal was signed between Israel's Transport Ministry and the National Highway Safety and Transport Agency in the USA, and will increase knowledge exchanges and experience between the two sides. Among the first issues the deal will cover will be to enable Israel to import more USA-made vehicles. Although most of the American carmakers sell models in Israel, they are generally models made for the European market. American-made cars are not allowed into Israel because of Israel's agreements with the EU, which has different standards for the headlights on vehicles – different standards that have proven to be the major stumbling block in efforts to export American-made cars to Israel. Both sides said they were confident the issue could be resolved. (Arutz-7)

MINISTER: FRENCH POLICE FOILED TERROR ATTACK: French authorities on Wednesday, 22 April, 2015 said they foiled terrorist attacks on at least one church after a man was arrested in Paris with an arsenal of weapons. Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said the 24-year-old IT student, arrested this week, planned to target several churches." The man was said to be an Islamic extremist known to security forces. He was arrested after shooting himself accidentally and calling for an ambulance. Also found in the suspect's apartment in southeastern Paris was evidence of ties to Islamic extremism, the official said. France stepped up security following attacks on Charlie Hebdo magazine and a Jewish supermarket in January 2015. "The threat has never been so high," Prime Minister Manuel Valls has said. "We have never had to face this kind of terrorism in our history." He said 1,573 French citizens or residents had been implicated in "terror networks" - 442 of those were currently believed to be in Syria. Ninety-seven of those had died in Syria or Iraq, including seven while carrying out suicide attacks, he added. (USA Today/BBC)

SIREN MARKS START OF REMEMBRANCE DAY: Israel came to a standstill Tuesday evening, 21 April, 2015 to honor 23,320 fallen soldiers and civilian victims of wars and terrorism. Traffic stopped and Israelis paused to observe a minute-long moment of silence as a siren sounded throughout the country at 8 p.m. marking the beginning of Remembrance Day. After the siren, a memorial torch-lighting ceremony began at the Western Wall, attended by President Reuven Rivlin and IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Gadi Eisenkot. Israel's Defense Minister, Moshe Ya'alon, earlier stated, "On Remembrance

Day the Israeli nation as one big family bows its head and unites with the memories of all of the fallen of Israel's wars, as a moral obligation to those who in their death commanded us to live, so that we may be worthy of them." Israel will commemorate 116 recently fallen soldiers and civilians who lost their lives in the past year. (Jerusalem Post)

ISRAEL'S POPULATION NOW STANDS AT 8.345 MILLION: On the eve of Israel's 67th Independence Day, the population now stands at 8.345 million, according to data provided by the Central Bureau of Statistics, compared to the 806,000 residents who lived here when the State was established. The Jewish population numbers at 6.251 million, or 74.9%, of the population. 20.7% are Arabs, 1.730 million residents, and 4.4%, or 364,000 residents have been assigned as "other" (non-Arab Christians, those from other religions, and those with no religious affiliation). (Arutz-7)

27,933 NEW IMMIGRANTS TO CELEBRATE THEIR FIRST INDEPENDENCE DAY: This Wednesday night, 22 April, 2015 marks the beginning of Israeli Independence Day, marking 67 years to the modern Jewish state, and it will be celebrated by no less than 27,933 new olim (immigrants) according to the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption. The country from which the largest number of Jews returned to their historical homeland last year was Ukraine, which produced 6,996 new olim. France was right behind at 6,377, followed by Russia at 5,040, and America with 3,208. A youthful trend characterizes the newest Israelis, with a large portion of them being teenagers. Israel's new olim will join their more veteran compatriots in celebrating Independence Day in the state's parks, where barbecue has become something of a tradition, and will likewise take in the concerts that will be held at cities nationwide. The cities that took in the most new immigrants were Tel Aviv-Yafo at 3,275, Netanya with 3,012, and Jerusalem at 2,828. (Israel National News)

NETANYAHU GRANTED TWO MORE WEEKS TO FORM GOVERNMENT: Israel's President Reuven Rivlin granted PM Netanyahu's request for an additional two weeks in which to form a government. Netanyahu asked for the additional time in a meeting Monday 20 April, 2015, with Rivlin. The prime minister, whose Likud party won the most votes in last month's election, is entitled to the extra time according to the President's Office. Netanyahu has spent 28 days trying to form a ruling government coalition, but has thus far been unsuccessful. Rivlin told Netanyahu that "The entire people of Israel hope a government will be established. I hope that in the coming days you will succeed in forming a stable government for the State of Israel." (JTA)

PENTAGON TRACKING IRANIAN CONVOY OFF COAST OF YEMEN: The USA military, backed by the firepower of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, continued Tuesday, 21 April, 2015 to shadow a convoy of Iranian cargo ships in waters off the coast of war-torn Yemen. The key concern: the ships could hold weapons intended for the Iranian-supported Houthi rebels, violating United Nations resolutions. According to a Pentagon spokesman, the Iranian ships remain in international waters off

of Yemen. The Roosevelt, with 5,000 sailors and 60 aircraft, is monitoring the ships. The Navy has several other ships off Yemen, including the USS Normandy, a guided-missile cruiser. "We are continuing to watch this Iranian convoy," said a military source. (USA Today)

OBAMA ADMIN. WON'T RULE OUT \$50 BILLION 'SIGNING BONUS' FOR IRAN: Yet a new wrinkle has surfaced in the controversial nuclear deal being formulated by the USA and world powers with Iran, as State Department representatives on Monday, 20 April, 2015 would not rule out handing the Islamic regime up to \$50 billion in a "signing bonus" for agreeing to a deal. Reports have indicated that the USA would authorize a release of \$30-\$50 billion in cash to Iran with the signing of a final deal ahead of a June 30, 2015 deadline, which comes in addition to over \$11 billion in assets that were unfrozen in the interim agreement signed November 2013. Asked about the reports, State Department spokesperson Marie Harf tried to avoid the topic. When directly asked if Iran will receive \$50 billion "on day one after signing" a nuclear deal, Harf said she would "look into it." Speaking about the "signing bonus," Jonathan Schanzer, a leading terror funding expert at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said it would let Iran continue propping up numerous terrorist groups, including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon. "This could be the largest cash infusion to a state sponsor of terrorism in modern history," Schanzer said. Iran is the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world. (INN)

IRAN: WE WON'T ALLOW 'FOREIGNERS' TO INSPECT OUR SITES: A top Iranian commander on Sunday, 19 April, 2015, said his country will never permit "foreigners" to inspect its military sites. "Not only will we not grant foreigners the permission to inspect our military sites, we will not even give them permission to think about such a subject," Brigadier General Hossein Salami, the second-in-command of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps was quoted as saying. "They will not even be permitted to inspect the most normal military site in their dreams," he declared. The comments come amid reports that a final deal between Iran and the P5+1 powers could see Tehran allow international inspectors to visit its military sites.

Iran has categorically denied the reports, describing them as mere rumors and as wrong interpretations of the understanding reached in early April, 2015 in Switzerland. The Islamic Republic has clashed with the West, and particularly the United States, over the interpretation of the framework deal, and took particular exception to an American fact sheet released after the framework deal was reached. Iran has been insisting that all sanctions be lifted immediately for any agreement with the West to go into effect. The State Department was quick to dismiss this demand. As well, top Iranian officials have declared they will start using advanced IR-8 centrifuges that are 20-times as effective as standard ones as soon as a deal is reached, meaning they would be able to produce a nuclear arsenal in a rapid time frame. (INN)

'Snowball's chance in hell' congress will approve iran deal, graham says: Republican presidential hopeful Senator Lindsey Graham (South Carolina) said this week that the framework nuclear deal has no chance of surviving approval of the USA Congress. "I don't think there's a snowball's chance in hell this framework will get approved by Congress after review," Graham told media sources. "It is so weak in a time we need to be strong," the senator said of the draft agreement's details. "I don't think any Republican or Democrat is going to allow that to become final," he added. Graham said USA President Barack Obama's potential accord lacked "anytime, anywhere" atomic inspections and more restrictions on Iran's nuclear reactors, the necessary safeguards for preventing a Tehran with nuclear arms. "At the end of the day, you can't lift sanctions until the behavior of Iran changes," he added. The South Carolina lawmaker additionally said that the deal's many flaws were proof Obama's diplomatic strategy was lacking. "President Obama's deal is deteriorating before our eyes," he charged. (Jerusalem Post)

EGYPT COURT SENTENCES MORSI TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON: An Egyptian court sentenced ousted President Mohamed Morsi to 20 years in prison without parole on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, for the killing of protesters in December 2012, in a decision broadcast on state television. It was the first ruling against Muslim Brotherhood leader Morsi since the army toppled him in 2013 after mass protests against his rule. (Jerusalem Post)

SHIPWRECKED BODIES BROUGHT ASHORE, EU PROPOSES DOUBLING RESCUE EFFORT: The EU proposed doubling the size of its Mediterranean search and rescue operations days ago as the first bodies were brought ashore of some 900 people feared killed in the deadliest shipwreck while trying to reach Europe. Three other rescue operations were underway on Monday, 20 April, 2015 to save hundreds more migrants in peril on overloaded vessels making the journey from the north coast of Africa to Europe. The mass deaths have caused shock in Europe, where a decision to scale back naval operations last year have increased the risks for migrants without reducing their numbers. Malta's PM Joseph Muscat said as many as 900 people may have died in Sunday's 19 April, 2015 disaster off the coast of Libya when a large boat capsized. In the past 10 days, there has been as many as 1,600 deaths in the Mediterranean. (Yahoo)

ISRAEL WILL RELEASED NEARLY \$500 MILLION IN TAX REVENUES IT COLLECTED FOR THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY ACCORDING TO AN AGREEMENT REACHED BY THE TWO SIDES, Bloomberg News reported. Israel suspended the funds in January to protest the Palestinians' decision to join the International Criminal Court. Palestinians have threatened to seek charges against Israeli leaders for military and settlement activities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. ...

Israel will transfer 1.85 billion shekels (\$472 million) to the Palestinian Authority, according to the Israeli official.

Israel collects taxes and customs on behalf of the Palestinian Authority. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said after his electoral victory in March that Israel would release the revenue as a humanitarian gesture. Abbas initially refused to accept the funds, saying Israel had unilaterally decided on the amount to be transferred.

To continue reading click [here](#).

A PLIABLE TRANSPARENT SCREEN FOR TVS, TABLETS AND OTHER DEVICES COULD BE MADE FROM A NOVEL DNA PEPTIDE NANOSTRUCTURE, SAY ISRAELI RESEARCHERS. Israeli nanotechnologists have invented a protein-based material that could be made into thin, transparent, and flexible screens for smartphones, computer monitors, tablets, televisions and other devices, according to a study published in March, in *Nature Nanotechnology*. Their experiments suggest that a novel DNA-peptide structure can satisfy the demand for greater portability, providing a screen that can easily be rolled up and put away, rather than requiring a flat surface for storage and transportation. “Our material is light, organic and environmentally friendly,” said Tel Aviv University Prof. Ehud Gazit, who conducted the bio-nanotechnology research project with doctoral student Or Berger in collaboration with Prof. Fernando Patolsky and Yuval Ebenstein. “It is flexible, and a single layer emits the same range of light that requires several layers today. By using only one layer, you can minimize production costs dramatically, which will lead to lower prices for consumers as well.” The research team tested different combinations of peptides (short protein fragments), embedded with DNA elements that facilitate the self-assembly of a unique molecular architecture. Peptides and DNA, two basic building blocks of every living cell, form the basis of bio-nanotechnology solutions for novel technologies possessing properties unmatched by inorganic materials such as plastic and metal. “Our lab has been working on peptide nanotechnology for over a decade, but DNA nanotechnology is a distinct and fascinating field as well. When I started my doctoral studies, I wanted to try and converge the two approaches,” said Berger. (via Israel21c)

PM: RUSSIAN SUPPLY OF S-300 MISSILE SYSTEM TO IRAN ‘VERY GRAVE’: Israeli PM Binyamin Netanyahu has once more warned against the transfer of an advanced surface-to-air missile system to Iran. "Israel sees with great severity the supply of S-300 missiles from Russia to Iran, at a time in which Iran is ramping up its aggressiveness in the region and all around Israel's borders," Netanyahu said Sunday, 19 March, 2015. "Israel also sees with great severity the fact that there is no mention of this aggressiveness in the nuclear deal being formed between the powers and Iran," he added. "There is no conditioning of the deal upon an end to this aggressiveness, either at the start of the deal or as a condition for removing sanctions. "Yesterday we saw the military parade in Tehran and the arms exposition that Iran is presenting before the world. Every year the missiles grow – their accuracy, their power and their lethality grow – but one thing does not change. What does not change is the writing 'death to Israel' on the missiles. In the face of the entirety of the threats I have described, Israel will do what is necessary to protect the security of the state and its citizens," Netanyahu said. Last week,

Netanyahu spoke personally to Russian President Vladimir Putin, and warned him against arming Iran with what could be a potentially game-changing weapons system. (Arutz-7)

OBAMA ‘FRANKLY SURPRISED’ IT TOOK THIS LONG FOR RUSSIA TO CROSS HIS RED LINE ON MISSILES TO IRAN: USA President Obama said that he was “not surprised” Russia sold an advanced missile system to Iran in the midst of his negotiations with the Ayatollah to prevent Iran’s nuclear facilities from making a bomb. He went even further to say that he expected the deal to happen a lot sooner than it did. “I’m frankly surprised that it held this long given that they were not prohibited by sanctions from selling these defensive weapons,” President Obama said on Friday, 17 April, 2015. The sanguine comments from Obama are surprising considering the negative effects his administration said it would cause. “He’s sort of thanking Russia,” CNN’s Jim Sciutto said. One senior Obama administration official speaking in 2010 described the S-300 sale as a ‘red line’ for the United States that couldn’t be crossed, according to Foreign Policy. The Iranian regime has for years wanted to get their hands on the S-300 air defense missile system. The missile system could help Iran defend their nuclear facilities from an air strike if nuclear negotiations were to fail and could lead to Iran instigating more chaos in the Middle East. (AP)

OBAMA OPEN TO ‘CREATIVE NEGOTIATIONS’ ON IRAN SANCTIONS: USA President Obama on Friday, 17 April, 2015, left open the door to "creative negotiations" in response to Iran's demand that punishing sanctions be immediately lifted as part of a nuclear deal, even though the initial agreement calls for the penalties to be removed over time. Asked at a news conference whether he would definitively rule out lifting sanctions at once as part of a final deal aimed at keeping Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, Obama said he didn't want to get ahead of negotiators in how to work through the potential sticking point. He said his main concern is making sure that if Iran violates an agreement, sanctions can quickly be reinstated - the so-called "snap back" provision. "How sanctions are lessened, how we snap back sanctions if there's a violation, there are a lot of different mechanisms and ways to do that," Obama said. He said part of the job for Secretary of State John Kerry and the representatives of five other nations working to reach a final deal with Iran by June 30 "is to find formulas that get to our main concerns while allowing the other side to make a presentation to their body politic that is more acceptable." Obama, speaking at a weekend news conference with Italian PM Matteo Renzi, said the sanctions issue "will require some creative negotiations by John Kerry and others." (Ynet)

HOLOCAUST-DENIERS HOLD ‘UNPRECEDENTED’ MAJOR LONDON CONFERENCE: An unprecedented meeting of holocaust-deniers took place in London last week, drawing the who's who of the European and North American fringe far-right and triggering concern from Jewish and anti-fascism groups. The meeting - said to be the largest of its kind ever held in the UK - took place at the Grosvenor Hotel in London, and was exposed by an undercover media team. Inconspicuously titled "The London Forum,"

speakers and attendants included many veterans of the British far-right scene, including former leaders of the British National Party and both former and current leading members of the neo-Nazi National Front. Also in attendance were holocaust deniers and fascist ideologues from mainland Europe, the USA and Canada. Several other participants also have previous criminal convictions for everything from holocaust denial to more violent crimes. Both Jewish leaders and anti-fascism campaigners expressed their alarm at the event, which came as British and wider European Jewry faces a worrying upsurge in anti-Semitism. Meanwhile, there have been calls for authorities to open a criminal investigation over possible incitement at the event. "The material from this group makes ugly reading," said Jonathan Arkush, vice-president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. (Israel National News)

‘EU BOYCOTTS ISRAEL, NOT MURDERERS IN SYRIA OR GAZA’: Israel’s Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz condemned the request by 16 of the 28 EU states to have "settlement" products from Judea & Samaria labeled, in an economic attack on Israel that was revealed last week. Writing on his Facebook page, Katz noted Friday, 17 April, 2015 that "European Union foreign ministers decided to boycott Israeli produce whose source is in the settlements! Not Syrian produce of Bashar Assad, not Gaza produce of the Hamas murderers, or of any other murderous terror regime in the world. Only Israeli produce. What do select Medjool dates raised in the Jordan valley, or products made in Ariel and Ma'ale Adumim (most while providing a livelihood to Palestinian workers), have to do with politics?" posed the minister. Katz berated "European hypocrisy, nourished by a combination of ancient anti-Semitism and new Islamic influence." (Aru tz-7)

EGYPT CONTINUES TO DESTROY TUNNELS ALONG THE GAZA BORDER: The Egyptian army has destroyed 69 tunnels along the border with Gaza since the end of March 2015, an Egyptian army spokesman said Saturday, 18 April, 2015. The spokesman, Muhammad Samir, said that Egyptian border forces stationed in the Egyptian side of Rafah had discovered and destroyed the tunnels in coordination with army engineers. Last month Samir had said the army destroyed 194 tunnels between February 1, 2015 and March 19, 2015. Another statement at the end of March, 2015 said that 22 tunnels had been destroyed between March 20, 2015 and March 27 2015. The latest 69 puts the total number of tunnels destroyed at 285 since February, 2015. Earlier this month, the Egyptian Cabinet approved a draft resolution criminalizing the act of tunnel-digging along Egyptian borders with the punishment of life imprisonment. President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi is reportedly seeking the death penalty for anyone convicted of digging tunnels into Gaza. (INN)

ISIS RELEASES VIDEO OF MASS EXECUTION OF CHRISTIANS: A new video published Sunday 19 April, 2015, by the ISIS terror group shows two mass executions in Libya. In the video, a group of Coptic Ethiopians is executed by a firing squad and another group by a knife to the throat. The video shows ISIS operatives marching their

victims, who don the group's now infamous orange jump suits, along a coastline, presumably in Libya; the second group is dressed in black jump suits and was marched and executed in the desert. According to ISIS, the first group being executed was "adherent of the Ethiopian church," and the execution purportedly took place in Libya's Fezzan region. The second mass execution was carried out in the Barqa region. The group failed to name their victims, whose throats they proceeded to cut.

Throughout the long and graphic video, ISIS terrorists are seen taking down crosses and replacing them with ISIS flags. "Despite the cross, we have returned," the ISIS narrator said with guns pointed at the first group. According to the video, the mass murder is a message to Christians in the region warning that if they fail to convert to Islam they will face execution at the hands of ISIS. A similar fate befell the Christian community of Raqqa, Syria. ISIS has gained a significant foothold in Libya, posing a clear and imminent threat to both Egypt and Italy. (Ynet)

AFGHAN SUICIDE BOMBING BLAMED ON ISIS: A motorcycle-riding suicide bomber attacked a bank branch Saturday, 18 April, 2015 in eastern Afghanistan, killing at least 35 people and injuring 125, in a deadly attack claimed by the ISIS group. The attack marks a major escalation in the country's fight against the extremist group that now holds a third of Iraq and Syria in its self-declared caliphate. It also comes as Afghan security forces fight against the Taliban after USA and NATO forces ended their combat mission in the country at the start of the year, yet another challenge for the war-ravaged nation. (Ynet)

MORE THAN 90,000 PEOPLE FLEEING VIOLENCE IN IRAQ'S ANBAR PROVINCE: More than 90,000 people are fleeing violence in Iraq's western province of Anbar, the United Nations said on Sunday, 19 April, 2015. ISIS terrorists have been gaining ground around the provincial capital Ramadi over the past week, displacing thousands of families. (Reuters)

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