

Yachad Ministries' ***Israel's News Update May 8, 2015***



POTENTIAL CRISIS ON THE HORIZON TO FORM ISRAEL'S NEW GOVERNMENT: Foreign Minister and Yisrael Beytenu chairman Avigdor Liberman has refused to join PM Binyamin Netanyahu's coalition, he announced on Monday afternoon, May 4, 2015 with just 48 hours before the coalition deadline. Liberman added that he would be resigning as Foreign Minister, despite reports that his joining the coalition would be conditional on him retaining his post - and despite reports that Netanyahu acquiesced to this demand. Likud's refusal to include a clause vowing to rid Hamas' control in Gaza as a coalition condition was key to Yisrael Beytenu's decision, as was the lack of a straightforward declaration to build in Judea and Samaria - specifically Ramot, Gilo, and Ma'ale Adumim. "I am telling you: there is no intention to build - not in Judea and Samaria, and not in the Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem." Lieberman also lashed out at the coalition agreement PM Netanyahu has brokered with the religious parties, saying he is pouring billions of shekels in a system that does nothing to address the poverty in the sector. Netanyahu has until Wednesday, 6 May, 2015 at 8 p.m. to inform President Reuven Rivlin that he has formed a government. If he does not have the support of at least 61 MKs by then, Rivlin would then be obligated to call upon another MK to build a coalition or initiate another election. (J. Post)

BODY OF MISSING ISRAELI FOUND IN NEPAL: The body of Or Asraf, 22, the last Israeli unaccounted for after the earthquake in Nepal last week, was discovered on Sunday 3 May, 2015 following a wide-scale rescue mission in the area where he was last known to be hiking, Israeli rescue services said. Asraf's body was found by a rescue team composed of his former comrades from the IDF's elite Egoz reconnaissance unit and lead by his unit commander after a long and intensive search in impossible conditions. Asraf

fought in the 2014 Gaza war, "during which he retrieved dead and wounded comrades during the difficult battle of Shuja'iya and was himself moderately wounded in the battle." (Ha'aretz)

NETANYAHU SPEAKS TO THE FAMILY OF OR ASSRAF: PM Netanyahu on Sunday evening, 3 May, 2015 spoke with Patrick Assraf, father of IDF soldier Or Assraf whose body was found earlier in the day in Nepal. "We did our utmost to find Or but we hoped for a different outcome. I share in your family's deep sorrow," Netanyahu said. President Reuven Rivlin also referred to the finding of Assraf's body and spoke of his sadness upon hearing about his death. "It was the prayer of an entire nation that he would be found alive and well. My sympathies go out to his family after this difficult and tragic loss," the President said. Friends of Or Assraf who had been with him on his trek in Nepal said it appeared he fell from a cliff when the earthquake struck last weekend. It is not known if he remained alive after the fall, but experts said he almost certainly could not have remained alive for more than a few hours, given the nature of his injuries. Earlier Sunday, 3 May, 2015, Israeli rescue teams began returning from Nepal. Dozens of Israelis were reported missing in the aftermath of the quake, but all – except Assraf – had been found, and nearly all have either arrived or are enroute to Israel. (Arutz-7)

SALAFI JIHADI GROUP: 'GANGS OF HAMAS REGIME DESTROYED GAZA MOSQUE': A salafi jihadi group on Monday, 4 May, 2015 accused Hamas of demolishing a mosque in the Gaza Strip. The group, which is affiliated with the ISIS terror organization, said the demolition of the mosque took place the previous night. The mosque had been frequented by supporters of the jihadi group, which is called Ansar al-Dawleh al-Islamiyah (Supporters of ISIS). "The gangs of the Hamas regime destroyed the Mutahabin Mosque in a way similar to what the Jewish and American occupation do," the group said in a statement. "In the face of this new Hamas encroachment, we renew our allegiance to ISIS Caliph Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, may Allah protect him," the group said. The demolition of the mosque comes amid growing tensions between Hamas and ISIS-affiliated groups in the Gaza Strip. (Jerusalem Post)

GEN. UZI DAYAN: HAMAS AND HEZBOLLAH WILL ATTACK ISRAEL AGAIN: Former Israeli national security adviser Maj.-Gen. (res.) Uzi Dayan told media sources, Monday, 4 May, 2015 that both Hamas and Hezbollah can be expected to attack Israel again, as "they are terror organizations - terrorism is what they do for a living." If attacked again, Israel should seek to eliminate terrorist leaderships, and push hostile organizations out of their territorial bases, said Dayan. He also warned that both Hezbollah and Hamas would profit if Iran joins the nuclear club, as they would be able to operate under a nuclear umbrella provided by Tehran. (Jerusalem Post)

NASRALLAH: DOWNFALL OF ASSAD WOULD MEAN FALL OF HEZBOLLAH: Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has emphasized the importance of Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime, saying that it cannot fall as it would mean the

fall of the party and the fall of the axis of resistance, a Lebanese newspaper reported on Tuesday, 5 May, 2015. Nasrallah also reportedly went on to claim that Assad would not be overthrown, but that it would not be possible to recover control over all of Syrian territory. The Shi'ite resistance axis of Iran, Hezbollah, and Syria has been fighting against a Sunni Islamist dominated opposition, which includes various jihadi groups such as al-Qaida's Nusra Front and ISIS. (Jerusalem Post)

OUTRAGE AS MEMORIAL FOR MURDERED JEW ILLAN HALIMI SMASHED: The mayor of a Paris suburb voiced his outrage after a memorial plaque honoring Ilan Halimi - a young Jewish man tortured to death by a Muslim gang in 2006 - was desecrated by unidentified vandals. The glass-and-stone plaque was found smashed at 18:00 on Saturday evening, 2 May, 2015, in Bagneux, a southern suburb of the French capital, and has since been removed for repairs. Bagneux mayor Marie-Hélène Amiable described the vandalism as "outrageous, unacceptable, I am extremely shocked." Ilan Halimi, a Jewish cellphone salesman, was kidnapped in Bagneux on 21 January 2006 by an anti-Semitic Muslim gang after being lured by a 17-year-old female gang member into what turned out to be a honeypot trap.

He was held for 24 days in an apartment building, where, bound and with his head covered entirely in duct tape apart from a small gap for his mouth, he was subjected to a horrifying ordeal of beatings and torture, while gang members attempted to extract a 450,000 Euro ransom from his family. Halimi was found naked, handcuffed and tied to a tree three weeks after his capture, but died from his wounds on the way to hospital. More than 80% of his body had been burned with acid and gasoline. The brutal murder triggered widespread fears over rising levels of violent anti-Semitism emanating from France's large Muslim community - fears which only continued to grow after several other deadly attacks against Jews by Muslims in the subsequent years. Despite pledges by French leaders to crack down on anti-Semitism, French Jews continue to be targeted and attacked on a regular basis. Late last week, two Jewish men were assaulted by a 40-strong Muslim gang in broad daylight on a Paris street. (INN)

REPORT: HARASSMENT, THREATS AGAINST CZECH JEWS RISE: A report released Monday, 4 May, 2015 by Prague's Jewish community has registered a significant increase of cases of harassment and threats against Jews last year. The annual report on anti-Semitism says such attacks - including anti-Semitic letters and emails, verbal attacks and harassment in front of Jewish objects - jumped to 37 in 2014 from nine in 2013. The report says attacks against Jews on the Internet rose to 191 cases compared to 156 the previous year. The biggest threat is posed by potential terrorist attacks by radicalized individuals. (Ynet)

ISRAELI RESTAURANT NAMED BEST RESTAURANT IN UK: The Palomar restaurant in London, which belongs to the owners of Jerusalem's famous Machneyuda restaurant, has won the Best Restaurant prize in the inaugural GQ Food and Drink

Awards, handed out by the British GQ men's fashion and style magazine. "This shortlist highlights the richness and variety of the UK's restaurant scene, from classic dining experiences to country pubs," said British GQ editor Dylan Jones in February 2015. But the big winner in the April 28, 2015 award ceremony at the Bulgari Hotel in London was a restaurant without any Michelin stars, with a lot of Israeli chutzpah and with much cheaper prices than the other candidates. "Naturally, we hoped we would win, but considering the great honor of being included in the shortlist, it was a surprise – even for us," says The Palomar's head chef, Tomer Amedi. (Ynet)

‘PROPHECY REALIZED IN THE WINES OF SAMARIA’: The Tura Winery, located in Samaria, has won the silver medal in the annual Israeli wine contest Eshkol Hazav (lit. golden cluster) for 2015. Tura's Mountain Peak wine won silver in the category of red wines over 120 shekels (\$30), marking four years in a row that the wine has appeared in the top three wines at the competition. Vered and Erez Ben Saadon, owners of Tura Winery, said, "winning in the Eshkol Hazahav contest each year strengthens us and each time proves anew the quality of Tura Winery wine. We are happy for that, and hope to continue to bring the unique wine of Samaria vineyards to the public in Israel and the world," they added. Responding to the strong performance of the Samaria winery, Samaria Regional Council head Gershon Mesika said, "we see the prophet Jeremiah's words realized with our very eyes, as he said, 'you shall yet plant vines on the mountains of Samaria'" (Jeremiah 31:5). (Israel National News)

ISRAEL PLEDGES TO REBUILD ENTIRE NEPALESE VILLAGE: Israel has pledged to fully rebuild an entire village in Nepal as part of its long-term relief efforts following the devastating earthquake in that country, Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said Thursday, 30 April, 2015. "After consulting with various departments in the Foreign Ministry, we decided to adopt a village in Nepal, to assist with its reconstruction and to do our utmost to help people who have really found themselves in a difficult situation." The foreign ministry said it will work with the Nepalese government to select a village and to assist in clearing the area as well as rebuilding the infrastructure and houses there. "We, the professional staff, will start to work after the dust has settled and it'll be possible to talk with Nepali authorities about the location of the village and the matter of the reconstruction," said a Foreign Ministry source. Israeli rescue units are continuing to search for Or Asraf, the last Israeli citizen who is unaccounted for in Nepal. Rescuers believe that Asraf was hiking at the time of the earthquake. Dozens of Israelis have been rescued from remote regions of Nepal over the last few days. (Times of Israel/Algemeiner)

NAPALESE BOY RECOVERS AT IDF HOSPITAL: The IDF's mission in Nepal continues, and on Friday, May 1, 2015 the IDF Spokesperson's Unit posted a video telling the story of a 15-year-old boy who was taken to the IDF's field hospital, after being removed from the rubble where he survived for five days. That same day, a baby girl was delivered at the IDF field hospital, with the mom and the baby both in good

health. The total number of patients treated at the IDF field hospital so far stands at 284, including 21 life-saving surgeries, and two baby deliveries. As the IDF continues its work in Nepal, the soldiers and officers received a heartwarming thank you - in Hebrew - from a Nepalese man who went to work in Israel ten years ago and recently returned to Nepal. (Arutz-7)

JERUSALEM GETS SHABBAT BUS SERVICE: Non-religious residents of Jerusalem have for years been demanding some sort of public transportation on Shabbat, and now it would seem they have it. A service called “Shabus” began operating this weekend to enable residents of more remote neighborhoods to reach Jerusalem’s city center on the weekly day of rest. A public Internet petition managed to raise just shy of \$30,000 for the launch of the service. Those interesting in receiving rides must register online and pay an annual fee of about \$13. So as to not upset Jerusalem’s large religious population any more than necessary, all Shabus drivers will be non-Jews. So far, a reported 500 people have signed up for the service. (Israel Today)

ISRAELI UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINS AT HISTORIC LOW: Israel’s unemployment rate for March, 2015 was 5.3 percent, remaining at a historic low for the second consecutive month, the country’s Central Bureau of Statistics reported last week. The statistic bureau’s survey said that during the first fiscal quarter of this year, unemployment among men was 5.1%, while the jobless rate among women was 5.5%. According to the survey, for the first time in Israel’s history, unemployment among those ages 25-64 dropped below 5%; 4.7% among men and 4.8% among women. Meanwhile, the first phase of a minimum-wage hike ordered by PM Benjamin Netanyahu came into effect Thursday, 30 April, 2015, raising the minimum wage in Israel from \$1,115 to \$1,205. (Algemeiner)

HAMAS FIGHTER KILLED IN TUNNEL COLLAPSE: Amid growing reports of Hamas rebuilding its subterranean infrastructure, the terrorist group on Saturday, 2 May, 2015 announced that one of its members was killed while digging a tunnel in the northern Gaza Strip. Nihad Khalif, 30, died when a tunnel collapsed near the border with Israel. The report of the fighter’s death came amid sustained efforts by Hamas to rebuild its offensive capabilities against Israel, including the conscription of new fighters, rehabilitating its cross-border attack tunnels and restocking its rocket arsenal with longer-distance rockets. According to a media report last month, Hamas has begun using heavy machinery and engineering tools to accelerate the excavation of attack tunnels leading from the Gaza Strip under the Israeli border. The equipment, sources in the Palestinian enclave said, includes small bulldozers with the ability to maneuver in tight spaces. (Times of Israel)

REPORT: ISIS HEAD INCAPACITATED DUE TO SPINAL DAMAGE: The leader of the Islamic State (ISIS) jihadist group, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, remains incapacitated due to suspected spinal damage and is being treated by two doctors who

travel to his hideout from the group's stronghold of Mosul in Iraq, media sources reported on Friday, 1 May, 2015. More than two months after being injured in an airstrike in north-western Iraq, the self-proclaimed caliph is yet to resume command of the terror group that has been rampaging through Iraq and Syria since June, 2014, the report said. Three sources close to ISIS confirmed that Baghdadi's wounds could mean he will never again lead the organization. ISIS is now being led by a long-term senior official, Abu Alaa al-Afri, who had been appointed deputy leader when his predecessor was killed by an air strike late last year. Details of Baghdadi's condition, and of the physicians treating him, have emerged since the newspaper revealed he had been seriously wounded on March 18, 2015 in an airstrike that killed three men he was travelling with. The attack took place 80 miles west of Mosul. (Arutz-7)

ISIS EXECUTES 300 YAZIDIS IN IRAQ: About 300 Yazidi captives of ISIS were executed by the Islamist group west of the ISIS-controlled city of Mosul in Iraq on Friday, 1 May, 2015, according to Iraqi and Yazidi officials. Iraq's vice president, Osama al-Nujaifi, said the massacre was "horrific and barbaric. The Yazidis, a religious minority group, are considered infidels by ISIS or ISIL. Since ISIS took over large swathes of Iraq, including the Yazidi district of Sinjar, hundreds of Yazidi men have been executed, and Yazidi women and children sold as slaves. (Ha'aretz)

40 PERSON MOB ASSAULTS 2 JEWS ON PARIS BOULEVARD: Two Jewish residents of Paris were assaulted on the street by a gang of about 40 people on Friday, 1 MAY, 2015, Israeli French JSS News reported. The attack against the two Jewish residents, both in their 20s, occurred about 2:30 p.m. on Boulevard Voltaire in Paris. Police launched an investigation into the incident and warned local Jewish businesses owners to be extra vigilant. Witnesses on the scene said members of the Jewish community volunteered to watch over the many local Jewish businesses on Boulevard Voltaire. The gang of attackers were associated with anti-Israel groups Gaza Firm and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign, said security personnel responsible for protecting the Jewish community. The attack marks the latest in a growing anti-Semitic trend in France and Europe as a whole. Earlier this year, Islamist gunmen seized a kosher supermarket in Paris and killed four Jewish hostages. Just a few weeks later, a security guard was killed in Copenhagen when a lone gunman opened fire in front of the city's Great Synagogue. In 2006, a French Jew was kidnapped from his cell phone store from the same Boulevard Voltaire, tortured and ultimately killed. (Algemeiner)

INDIANA PASSES BILL OPPOSING BDS: The Indiana General Assembly has passed a bill that formally opposes the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. Adopted in a voice vote, the Indiana Senate approved Resolution 74, which "expresses opposition to the anti-Jewish and anti-Israel" BDS movement. The Senate's move came after the Indiana House of Representatives unanimously, by a 93-0 vote, passed the anti-BDS House Resolution 59 on April 22, 2015. The measure now goes to Indiana Governor Mike Pence for his signature. The

Indiana bill contends that the global spread of anti-Jewish speech and violence “represents an attack, not only on Jews, but on the fundamental principles of the United States.” The resolution goes on to thank the presidents of Indiana University and Purdue University for “strongly” condemning the boycott of Israeli academic institutions after some faculty members and other staffers at those schools voiced support for the BDS movement. Indiana’s move came a week after the Senate Finance Committee adopted new amendments to the Trade Promotion Authority aimed at countering BDS. (INN)

ISRAELI START-UP PARTNERS WITH SAMSUNG ON HEALTH MONITORING SYSTEM FOR ELDERLY: The Israeli start-up Mybitat and Samsung have joined forces to develop technology to help keep senior citizens safe at home. The technology would utilize sensors and cloud-based software to monitor seniors’ daily routines, and would be able to recognize any changes in clients’ behavior and health, in which case the system would call for help. “Samsung believes the senior population can benefit from new technologies to improve their quality of life,” said Curtis Sasaki, a senior vice president at Samsung. “Our work with Mybitat has the potential to make the aging process significantly easier on individuals and families.” (Algemeiner)

AFTER REPORTS CITING TEL AVIV AS THE FIRST TESTING GROUND FOR THE FUTURISTIC AERIAL CABLE CAR PILOT, the Herzliya Municipality recently announced its collaboration with the SkyTran company for the country’s first rapid transport system. “Right now we are talking about a vision, a dream, and we want to make it a reality. There are other processes and objections, and we are only at the planning stage,” Herzliya Municipality Spokesperson Dorit Basman told Geektime. The SkyTran system, designed by NASA’s Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley, uses two-person modules that drive along a guide rail suspended from existing power lines. With congestion a major problem in major cities everywhere, this futuristic space-like gliding vehicle could be the solution to traffic issues. According to the Geektime report, the pilot route would run from the industrial area between the Herzliya train station and the marina. It is said to be able to transport 12,000 people every hour. Moreover, the transit system – although not yet a reality – has been dubbed environmentally friendly because it uses little energy and could eventually be powered by solar panels. (via Israel21c)

IN A SWEEPING SHOW OF BIPARTISAN SUPPORT, ON THURSDAY THE SENATE PASSED THE IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT – a clear rebuke of the White House’s approach to the Iranian nuclear negotiations and its attempt to exclude Congress. The final count was 98 in favor and one against. Senator Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), the only senator to oppose the bill, asserted that the Iran deal should be “submitted as a treaty,” requiring a two-thirds vote in the Senate. The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act would provide Congress an oversight role and would give members 30 days to review a final deal, during which sanctions could not be lifted.

Additionally, 65% of Americans believe that any agreement with Iran should be subject to congressional approval, according to a poll released on April 27.

Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and co-author of the legislation Senator Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) said, “I think the American people want the United States Senate and the House of the Representatives on their behalf to ensure that Iran is held accountable.” Co-author of the legislation Senator Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), in his speech on the Senate floor, declared, “From the beginning, we fashioned language to ensure that Congress plays a critical role in judging any final agreement.” He continued, “Without the passage of this legislation, we will have missed an opportunity to send a clear message to Tehran.”

President Barack Obama originally vowed that he would veto legislation relating to the current negotiations with Iran. However, immediately prior to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee vote on the bill on April 14, the White House signaled that the President would be willing to sign it. Following the announcement, Sen. Corker said, “The reason the administration in the last two hours has chosen the path they’re now taking is the number of senators they realized were going to support this legislation.”

BREAKING THE SILENCE, AN NGO THAT HAS RECENTLY BEEN IN THE NEWS FOR ITS CRITICISM OF ISRAEL’S ACTIONS DURING LAST SUMMER’S OPERATION PROTECTIVE EDGE, was explicitly directed by European charities to prove that Israel acted improperly, the watchdog group NGO Monitor showed in a report released Monday.

NGO Monitor’s staff translated the terms of Breaking the Silence’s agreement with Oxfam and other organizations. In the case of Oxfam, the agreement called for:

[Breaking the Silence] signed an agreement with Oxfam, a British organization, to conduct interviews with “as many” soldiers as possible who will testify regarding [Israeli] “immoral actions” that violate human rights. In 2009, the British organization donated 74,595 NIS to the organization.

ISRAEL DIDN’T JUST SEND MEDICAL AND RESCUE STAFF TO NEPAL IN THE WAKE OF THE EARTHQUAKE, IT ALSO SENT THERAPEUTIC CLOWNS. No other country includes medical clowns in its overseas disaster-relief crew. But Israel has blazed a trail in professionalizing clown therapy through the Dream Doctors Project, a privately supported program that oversees 110 trained medical clowns working at 29 hospitals across Israel. Israeli research on professional therapeutic clowns has shown that their inclusion on a medical team has measurable benefits in pain relief, stress reduction and boosting immunity. They are now used in Israel anywhere from adult and children’s wards, to operating rooms, delivery rooms and with sexual abuse victims. Dream Doctors previously joined Israeli relief teams in Thailand, Indonesia and Haiti, says Karin Schneid, project coordinator for the Philnor Foundation, which supports the project. “They’ve developed a unique methodology for working with trauma in disaster

zones. They are trained by professionals here in Israel before their missions,” Schneid tells ISRAEL21c. Two Dream Doctors arrived in Nepal on May 2 to assess needs, and another three followed the next day. (via Israel21c)

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