

## **Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update June 26, 2015**



**NETANYAHU WARNS JEWISH WORLD: THE THREAT IS GROWING:** Speaking at a conference of the Jewish Agency in Tel Aviv on Monday, 22 June, 2015 PM Binyamin Netanyahu described the largest dangers to the Jewish people. He said the number one threat against the Jewish people is a nuclear armed Iran, warning that the Iran deal being discussed becomes "worse by the day," even walking away from previous interim agreements including inspections on military nuclear sites. He also spoke about the terrorist proxies of Iran acting throughout the Middle East, as well as the Islamic regime's brazenness regarding their goals to destroy Israel. Other threats against the Jewish state discussed by Netanyahu included the BDS movement, pushing to boycott and economically attack the Jewish state. (Arutz-7)

**AMERICAN ADVISERS WARN: IRAN DEAL NOT TOUGH ENOUGH:** A group of senior American security advisers, including five who advised President Barack Obama in his first term, are warning of the impending nuclear agreement with Iran. In a letter the advisers wrote and which was released on Wednesday, 24 June, 2015 they warn that the agreement may not provide the adequate protection measures against Iran and would not meet the standards set by the United States. They added that the agreement should contain a "tougher stance with regard to the supervision of nuclear facilities." (Arutz-7)

**IRAN'S KHAMENEI RULES OUT FREEZING SENSITIVE NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES FOR ANY EXTENDED PERIOD:** Days before the deadline for signing a nuclear deal between Iran and the world's major powers, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei on Tuesday, 23 June, 2015, ruled out freezing Iran's sensitive nuclear work for

a long period and said all sanctions imposed on the country should be lifted immediately, state TV reported. "Freezing Iran's research and development for a long time like 10 or 12 years is not acceptable," Khamenei said in a speech broadcast live. "Sanctions should be lifted immediately when the deal is signed and it should not be linked to verification by the UN watchdog body." Speaking on Wednesday, 24, June, 2015, USA Secretary of State, John Kerry said that nuclear negotiations with Iran will not be affected by the recent comments from Iran's supreme leader. Kerry said the speech, along with highlights on Khamenei's official Twitter feed were for "domestic political consumption." And, he said that if Iran did backtrack on commitments made in an April outline there would be no deal. (Ynet/INN)

**ROCKET LAUNCHED AT SOUTHERN ISRAEL FROM GAZA:** Another rocket was launched at Israel around 10pm Tuesday, 23 June, 2015 landing in an open area near Ashkelon. Israel's air force struck the launcher, destroying it, within a couple of hours after the attack. The projectile shot from Gaza sent residents searching for shelter. It landed in an open area near the Yad Mordechai Kibbutz just north of the Gaza Strip, the Israel Defense Forces said. There were no reports of injuries or damage. The attack was the latest in a string of rockets targeting Israel over the last month. Yisrael Beytenu leader Avigdor Liberman, a former foreign minister, called on the government to take action to end the sporadic rocket fire. "Whoever is prepared to accept a drizzle - will at the end of the day get a torrential downpour," he stated. "This situation is insufferable, unfathomable and must be brought to an end." Israel considers the ruling terrorist organization, Hamas, responsible for all rocket fire emanating from the Gaza Strip. (Times of Israel)

**ISRAEL CANCELS GAZANS' ENTRY PERMITS FOR RAMADAN FOLLOWING ROCKET ATTACK:** Israel canceled the permits allowing some 500 Gaza Palestinians to enter Israel and pray on the Temple Mount for Ramadan following a rocket attack from the coastal strip. The coordinator of government activity in the territories, Maj.-Gen. Yoav Mordechai, said Wednesday, 24 June, 2015 that the visits were canceled because "the security conditions around the crossing aren't stable," since the rocket landed close to the Erez crossing between Israel and Gaza. The attack follows several similar ones from Gaza in the past month. Israel has said it holds Hamas responsible for all attacks originating in Gaza. "Hamas is responsible for depriving worshipers of prayer in Al-Aksa mosque during Ramadan," Mordechai told media sources. "I am not saying that Hamas fired the missile, but Hamas is responsible because it controls the Gaza Strip." (JTA) <strong>Pray for the safety of residents and visitors throughout Israel, and especially in and around Jerusalem during the Muslim holiday of Ramadan. Islamic hatred of Israel, coupled with prolonged fasting and scorching summer temperatures is a volatile combination.

**OBAMA ADMINISTRATION REJECTS FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF UN GAZA REPORT:** The Obama administration said it opposes any Security Council

consideration of a UNs report on last summer's Israel-Hamas war. "We challenge the very mechanism which created it," John Kirby, the State Department spokesman, said a day after the report's publication. "We're certainly going to read it, as we read all UN reports. But we challenge the very foundation upon which this report was written, and we don't believe that there's a call or a need for any further Security Council work on this." The UN Human Rights Council, a body that Israel and the United States say is biased and targets Israel more than any other country, commissioned the report on the 50 days of fighting in Gaza last July and August. While the report accused both Israel and Palestinian factions of possible war crimes, its findings focused more on what it considers Israeli wrongdoing in its operation known as Protective Edge. Kirby's said the United States would use its veto to keep the Security Council from considering the report. (JTA)

**USA CONGRESS PASSES LANDMARK ANTI-BDS LAW:** Congress passed a trade bill containing provisions opposing the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel on Wednesday, 24 June, 2015. The bill requires USA negotiators to make rejection of BDS a principal trade objective in dealings with the EU in order to discourage European governments from participating in BDS activities. "The recent wave of boycotts originating in Europe demands a robust response from the United States. This is that response," said Rep. Peter Roskam (R-Ill.). "If you want free trade with the United States, you can't boycott Israel." (Times of Israel)

**UK MPs DECRY 'TALMUD BURNING' LONDON NEO-NAZI RALLY:** A group of British MPs have called for "every measure" to be taken to protect a Jewish community in London from an impending neo-Nazi demonstration planned on July 4, 2015, the first Shabbat of the month. Hampstead and Kilburn MP Tulip Siddiq led a motion in the UK Parliament backing those calling for a ban of the demonstration, reports the Jewish Chronicle. Her constituency borders the neighborhood of Golders Green in northwest London which is the heart of the Jewish community in the city, and the target of the rally. Siddiq, along with Conservative MP Peter Bottomley and others, called on Home Secretary Theresa May to take action against the demonstration.

The motion highlighted that the "rally is due to take place on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, in an area in which 40% of the population is Jewish." It praised "the public activism in opposition to the event." The British MPs added that they believe "every measure should be taken to protect Golders Green's vibrant community from provocation and abuse." At the rally, one of the fascist leaders has announced the neo-Nazis plan to desecrate Israeli flags and Jewish holy books in solidarity with the Palestinian Arabs and against the State of Israel. (INN)

**THREE MEDALS IN A DAY FOR ISRAEL'S GYMNASTS AT EUROPEAN GAMES:** Israel's rhythmic gymnasts doubled the delegation's medal haul at the European Games on Sunday, 21 June, 2015, scaling the podium three times in a single day in Baku, Azerbaijan. After winning a silver medal in the all-around final last week,

the national rhythmic gymnastics team took a bronze in the group ribbons final to start the day before winning a silver in the clubs and hoops. On Wednesday, 24 June, 2014, Israel's medal haul at the European Games jumped to eight after swimmer Marc Hinawi ended the 1,500-meter final in third place in Azerbaijan. The 18-year-old Hinawi registered a time of 15:25.63 minutes, setting a new personal best and junior national record, which is just seven seconds slower than the senior Israel record. The swimming events in Baku are being contested only by junior athletes and are also acting as the European Youth Championships. "This feels amazing, but I expected to register a better result," said Hinawi. "I'm really happy, but I believe I can swim faster." (J. Post)

**WITH LESS THAN A WEEK TO GO BEFORE THE DEADLINE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT,** Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei publicly rejected fundamental components of any final nuclear deal: a long-term freeze on centrifuge research and development, access to Iran's military sites, and phased sanctions relief. He declared, "We don't accept a 10-year restriction. We have told the negotiating team how many specific years of restrictions are acceptable." The New York Times described his statements as "his...strongest yet."

Khamenei went on to say that "all economic, financial and banking sanctions, implemented either by the United Nations Security Council, the United States Congress or the administration, must be lifted immediately when the deal is signed." In contrast, the U.S. contends that sanctions relief should be granted in proportion to Iran's compliance with a final deal.

Many analysts also have been clear that access to Iran's military sites is essential to determining the extent of Iran's past work on weaponization and, moreover, critical in preventing a covert breakout. In April, President Obama's Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications Ben Rhodes told reporters that the International Atomic Energy Agency will need have to have the ability to "inspect suspicious sites, no matter where they are."

Khamenei delivered his remarks only a day after European foreign ministers pressed Iran to hold to the parameters reached on April 2 in Lausanne, Switzerland. Over the weekend, the Iranian parliament approved legislation that bans international inspectors' access to military sites and scientists in any final deal. Then, according to the Associated Press, Iran's Guardian Council, also known as "Iran's constitutional watchdog," ratified the measure. During the vote, some lawmakers chanted "death to America."

**A BIPARTISAN GROUP OF FORMER SENATORS HAS BANDED TO HIGHLIGHT THE DANGERS OF THE EMERGING NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN,** Politico reported Tuesday.

The latest salvo lands Wednesday, when the American Security Initiative, a bipartisan group chaired by former senators, unleashes an ad blitz, urging eight senators from both parties to oppose any nuclear deal that doesn't allow "unconditional inspections" of

Iran's nuclear facilities. The target list includes Chuck Schumer of New York, the Democratic leader in waiting, and John Thune of South Dakota, the GOP's chief message man, according to sources familiar with the matter.

The group will spend about \$1.4 million on the ad buys, beginning Wednesday, and run a full-page ad in The New York Times on June 29. Its board of directors includes former colleagues of many of the targeted senators: Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.), Evan Bayh (D-Ind.), Norm Coleman (R-Minn.) and Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.).

"It was a good time to get out into the discussion and to focus on eight important senators, four from each party, and just say to them: Please make clear to the administration that you're not going to support an agreement with Iran that does not have additional inspections," Lieberman said in an interview. "If the final agreement does not have that kind of inspection system, then I would do anything I can to urge Congress to reject it."

Concern over the terms of the emerging nuclear deal have prompted overwhelming bipartisan majorities in both the House of Representatives and the Senate to pass a bill ensuring legislative oversight of any deal with Iran.

A number of incidents have raised concerns that the administration was retreating from demands that are considered essential to verifying that Iran cannot develop nuclear weapons. Last week, Secretary of State John Kerry made a statement indicating that the United States was not concerned with Iran's past nuclear work. Earlier it was reported that the United States was not enforcing existing sanctions against Iran and was looking to expand the scope of sanctions relief that it would grant to Iran as part of any deal. (via TheTower.org)

**A COMMUNITY MAPPING TOOL DEVELOPED BY 21-YEAR-OLD ISRAELI-AMERICAN ENTREPRENEUR RAISES MONEY IN SEED INVESTMENT FROM LEADING TECHNOLOGY INVESTORS.** What started out as a fun side project for 21-year-old Israeli-American entrepreneur Ben Lang while he served in the Israel Defense Forces has just raised \$1 million in venture capital. The seed investment in Mapme, a community visualization platform, was announced yesterday. Funding came from leading investors Gigi Levy, Daniel Recanati, Kima Ventures and the DRW Trading Group. Lang developed Mapme two years ago. The technology is a user-generated map tool for companies and organizations, which allows users to create a map around a specific topic or interest and share it with customers, who can add new locations. One of the first maps created by Lang was a highly-successful startup map of Israel called Mapped in Israel, which brings together entrepreneurs, employees, and investors in the Israeli high-tech scene. Nonprofit Startup Ireland also used the technology to create a map of the country's startup sector. On International Hummus Day, also the brainchild of Lang, Mapme created an international hummus map, which now has entries pinpointing

favorite hummus spots all over the world, including locations like Lebanon and Egypt. Today Mapme is running in beta in over 30 countries around the world, and covers some 90 ecosystems. Maps created in the platform cover topics ranging from food to religion, technology and health. (via Israel21c)

**ISRAEL: UN REPORT ON GAZA WAR IS BIASED:** Israeli PM Netanyahu on Monday, 22 June, 2015 rejected a UN report that accused both Israel and Hamas of war crimes in the Gaza fighting last summer. "Israel does not commit war crimes," Netanyahu said. "Israel defends itself against a terrorist organization that calls for its destruction and carries out many war crimes." He added that the commission that issued the report is "notoriously biased" against Israel. Ron Prosor, Israel's ambassador to the UN, accused the investigators of serving as the soldiers of the Palestinians and Hamas. "The UN has been taken hostage by terrorist organizations, and in this battle, the international community will lose." Meanwhile, Israel Foreign Ministry sources said, "It is regrettable that the report fails to recognize the profound difference between Israel's moral behavior during Operation Protective Edge and the terror organizations it confronted. In defending itself against attacks, Israel's military acted according to the highest international standards." (USA Today)

**NGO MONITOR: UN REPORT 'TARNISHED' BY CITING 'BIASED' NGOs:** The credibility of the UN Commission of Inquiry's report on Operations Protective Edge is "irrevocably tarnished," NGO Monitor asserted. "The UNHRC report would be entirely different without the baseless and unverifiable allegations of non-governmental organizations," said Anne Herzberg, Legal Advisor at NGO Monitor. Amnesty International, B'Tselem, Palestinian Center for Human Rights and Al Mezan were all named by NGO Monitor as "biased and unreliable" NGOs referenced and cited in the UN report. Another fundamental flaw of the report, NGO Monitor asserts, is the fact that the Commission did not properly investigate the claims of these NGOs nor allegations from Israel about Palestinian terrorists' use of civilian buildings. "The lack of military expertise in the commission and the UN staff clearly hampered the investigation and the resulting publication," Herzberg explained. "In at least four independent studies by military experts, including Col. Richard Kemp, the former head of British forces in Afghanistan, former senior USA generals, and the former senior military officer for NATO, all concluded that not only did Israel exceed the requirements of international law in the Gaza Conflict but that its precautionary efforts to protect civilians were unprecedented in the history of warfare." (Arutz-7)

**BENNETT: UN GAZA REPORT HAS JEWISH BLOOD ON ITS HANDS:** The UN Human Rights Council report on last summer's Operation Protective Edge justifies the murder of Jews, Education Minister Naftali Bennett declared Monday 22, June, 2015, saying it "is born in sin and will be buried in shame." According to Bennett, the report has "blood on its hands," as it permits the murder of Jews and cheapens their blood, ties the hands of IDF soldiers from being able to defend Israel, and ignores last summer's

kidnapping and murder of three teenage boys by terrorists with ties to Hamas. The Bayit Yehudi chairman said the report “tries to create symmetry between us and Hamas, but it is not true. There is a good side and a bad side; a side that tries to avoid civilians and a side that targets them. Israel will continue to defend itself, but to the UN, I say: ‘Shame on you,’” Bennett declared. (Jerusalem Post)

**‘B’TSELEM? OUR B’TSLEM? IT CAN’T BE’:** Education Minister Naftali Bennett, continued on Monday afternoon, 22 June, 2015, to deride the UN report on Operation Protective Edge. He delivered a passionate response to the bias UN statement on Israel's conduct in Operation Protective Edge in Gaza, taking leftist organizations to task in the Knesset. "I saw the report, contained the names of several recognizable organizations: Breaking the Silence, B'Tselem - and I ask myself: B'Tselem? Our B'Tselem? That cannot be. So I had to make sure and read the report." Bennett slammed the New Israel Fund (NIF) as well. "I went on the website of the New Israel Fund, which holds the patent for the idea of putting Israeli soldiers on trial for war crimes," he fired. "And among the candidates for awards under the NIF, there is a candidate from B'Tselem who was nominated for social change. Please note - the B'Tselem organization was nominated for the Campaign to name Children from Gaza Killed During Protective Edge," he thundered. "Why would the world file complaints against us?" Bennett continued. "We're so good at harming ourselves – via organizations such as B'Tselem, the New Israel Fund, Breaking the Silence. Where does it come from - such self-hatred? Bennett's answer to the UN report is to promote the advancement of laws which would strip funding from leftist NGOs. "Anyone who tries to make our soldiers war criminals - and gets more foreign financing for it - must be stopped by us, and now," he concluded. (Arutz-7)

**UN GAZA WAR REPORT LEAVES NO ROOM FOR ISRAELI SELF-DEFENSE:** While the UN Human Rights Council report acknowledged that Hamas' indiscriminate firing of rockets at Israeli cities were acts of terrorism, it concentrated most of its fire on Israel's attempts to defend its citizens. The report not only mischaracterized Israel's highly restrictive rules of engagement that often put Israel Defense Forces personnel in danger, but also seeming to grant Hamas impunity to wage a terror war against Israel's existence. In effect, the report claimed that those trying to stop terror are the real criminals. The legal process by which IDF strikes are approved is geared toward saving civilian lives and goes beyond any notion of what international law requires. Indeed, the Israeli rules, which often endanger Israeli soldiers and allow terrorists to escape simply because of the possibility that civilians might be harmed, go well beyond the practices of other Western nations, including the USA in its conflicts in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq. The Chairman of the USA Joint Chiefs of Staff concluded that Israel not only acted properly but also constituted a model for the conduct of armed forces in asymmetrical conflicts. The UN would not dare label any military operation such as the one conducted by Israel as illegal were it carried out by any other nation. (Commentary)

**IRAN PARLIAMENT BARS NUCLEAR CONCESSIONS IN TALKS WITH BIG POWERS:** Iran's parliament passed a bill on Tuesday, 23 June, 2015, banning access for UN inspectors to its military sites and scientists, potentially complicating chances for a nuclear accord with world powers as a June 30 deadline looms. Two major stumbling blocks to a deal have been disputes over how much transparency Iran should offer to ease suspicions that it has covertly sought to develop nuclear bombs, and the timing and pace of relief from sanctions imposed on Tehran. France has spearheaded the powers' demand that Iran grant unfettered UN access to military bases - where officials believe Iran has conducted nuclear bomb research - as part of any final settlement that would curb Tehran's nuclear program in return for a phase-out of sanctions. The legislation prohibiting any such access, as well as stipulating that all sanctions be lifted as soon as a nuclear accord takes effect, was approved by 214 of 244 lawmakers. (J.Post)

**BOYCOTT ISRAEL? NOT IN BETHLEHEM:** It's somewhat ironic that as "human rights" activists around the world push to boycott Israeli goods, in Bethlehem, which is the capital of Christian efforts to promote the BDS movement, products from the Jewish state are widely available there. That fact was demonstrated days ago by Israeli activist Kay Wilson, who during a visit to Bethlehem to spend the day with a Palestinian friend decided to browse a number of local shops. "I saw some beautiful Palestinian shops. I saw Israeli goods sold in Palestinian supermarkets, which makes a mockery of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions," Wilson wrote on her Facebook page. She went on to note how Bethlehem, often propagandized as an open air prison, is a perfectly normal town, no better or worse off than most Israeli towns. "Personally, I saw some very nice housing," Wilson explained. "I saw that some Palestinians have cars that the rest of us can only dream of." Pro-Palestinian activists, and the mainstream media that eats up their words, routinely caricature Bethlehem and other Palestinian towns in a way that wholly defies reality. And that phenomenon only puts genuine peace further out of reach. For, as Wilson correctly pointed out, "for peace to be possible, it has to be based on truth. And the truth is that there is no genocide against the Palestinians. There is no Holocaust being perpetrated by Jews." (Israel Today)

**FIVE TIMES MORE ISRAELI UNIVERSITY GRADS THAN IN 1990:** Over 75,000 Israelis achieved academic degrees in 2014, five times the number who graduated in 1990, the Central Bureau of Statistics said Tuesday, 23 June, 2015. The degrees were given at Israeli universities, colleges, and academic training centers. Of the total, an impressive 42,000 - 55.9% - received their degrees from universities, while 24,700, or 32.9%, were granted degrees from colleges, which operate three and four year programs under the auspices of universities. (INN)

**ISRAELI PARALYMPIC ROWER MORAN SAMUEL WINS GOLD MEDAL AT WORLD CUP:** Moran Samuel, the Israeli Paralympic athlete, made her nation proud last weekend by capturing the gold medal in rowing at the 2015 World Rowing Cup in Italy. Samuel made history by not only shattering her own personal record, but she also

broke the Israeli record while defeating the reigning world champion, Norwegian rower Birgit Skarstein. The Israeli rower crossed the finish line with a time of 5:15.77. (Jerusalem Post)

**COLD-BLOODED MURDER: ONE KILLED IN SAMARIA SHOOTING ATTACK:** One person was killed and another wounded, in a shooting attack close to the town of Dolev north of Jerusalem. Paramedics and a large team of IDF security forces arrived at the scene after responding to reports that a terrorist had opened fire on an Israeli vehicle at 4:15 p.m. Friday 19 June, 2015. The fatally shot victim has been identified as Danny Gonen, a 25-year-old resident of central Israel. The second victim was evacuated by ambulance to Tel Hashomer, with gunshot wounds to his limbs. His condition is light-to-moderate. The two victims were finishing a trip to a nearby spring and had begun leaving when a Palestinian standing at the side of the road waved them down, apparently asking for help. As soon as the Israelis' car pulled up he asked them for water, and then shot them at point-blank range and fled the scene. MK Motti Yogev, a resident of Dolev and Colonel in the IDF reserves, arrived at the site of the attack shortly after to help emergency services evacuate the victims and secure the area. "The security forces must speedily reach the terrorist responsible," Yogev said, claiming the attacker had fled to a nearby village. "Unfortunately, our Arab neighbors celebrate their festivals by killing," he said, referring to the fact that the attack occurred at the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. (Arutz-7)

**HAMAS WELCOMES SHOOTING ATTACK AS 'HERORIC OPERATION':** The Hamas terrorist group immediately welcomed the shooting attack near the town of Dolev in which 25-year-old Danny Gonen was murdered and another man was wounded. "We welcome the unique and heroic operation that took place near Ramallah," said Hamas spokesman Husam Badran. "We, and with us all our people, view with the utmost respect and appreciation those pure hands who held on to the resistance and turned their fire toward the occupier." PM Binyamin Netanyahu said Friday evening 19 June, 2015 that Israel will find the terrorist responsible for the shooting. "We should not let the relative quiet deceive us," he warned, adding, "The efforts to attack us continue constantly, just as we are operating constantly to prevent attacks with all the tools at our disposal." President Reuven Rivlin said the assault is another step in the quiet and serious escalation of terrorism Israel has witnessed in recent months. "We will not accept a situation in which a young hiker has his life taken from him in the land of Israel, because he is Jewish. Security forces will work tirelessly to bring to justice those responsible for this cruel and brutal act," declared Rivlin. (Arutz-7)

**AMBASSADOR PROSOR TO UN: CONDEMN JUDEA & SAMARIA SHOOTING ATTACK:** Israeli Ambassador to the UN Ron Prosor on Saturday, 20 June, 2015, called on UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the UN Security Council to "unequivocally" condemn the previous day's shooting attack in Judea & Samaria, which left a 25-year-old Israeli dead and another injured. Calling the shooting, which

occurred near Ramallah, an "act of terror," Prozor urged the international body to "change the regular so-called balanced response that is calling on both sides to show restraint," as "only one side is responsible for this heinous murder."

"This terrorist," Prozor said in a letter written to the UN, "took advantage of the compassion of these young men to commit this heinous crime." The ambassador pinned the blame for the attack – "another in a chain of incidents" – on the Palestinian leadership, who he said ignited violence by "constant incitement." Rather than directing "their people towards peace, they are leading the whole area into instability." As for the international community, Prozor said they "should insist that the Palestinians prevent violence, and refrain from inciting emotions during" the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, which began this week. (J. Post)

**USA REPORT FINDS IRAN THREAT UNDIMINISHED AS NUKE DEAL NEARS:** Iran's support for international terrorist groups remained undiminished last year and even expanded in some respects, the Obama administration said Friday 19 June, 2015, less than two weeks before the deadline for completing a nuclear deal that could provide Tehran with billions of dollars in relief from economic sanctions. The department's annual terrorism report underscored the ongoing threat posed by Iran and its proxies across the Islamic world and beyond. Tehran increased its assistance to Shiite militias fighting in Iraq and continued its long-standing military, intelligence and financial aid to Lebanon's Hezbollah, Syrian President Bashar Assad's embattled government and Palestinian terrorist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad. World powers and Iran are trying to conclude an accord by the end of the month.

The negotiations don't involve Iran's support for terrorist groups beyond its border. But Israel and the Sunni monarchies of the Persian Gulf, Iran's regional rivals, fear a fresh wave of terrorism as a result of any pact. White House spokesman Eric Shultz said America's grave concern about Iran's support for terrorism remains unabated. "That is all the more reason that we need to make sure they don't obtain a nuclear weapon," he said. In total last year, nearly 33,000 people were killed in almost 13,500 terrorist attacks around the world, according to the State Department. That's up from 18,000 deaths in 10,000 attacks in 2013. (Ynet)

**STEINITZ: USA REPORT ON IRAN TERRORISM SHOULD END DELUSIONS ABOUT NUCLEAR PROGRAM:** The latest State Department report detailing Iran's continued sponsorship of international terrorism proves that Tehran cannot be trusted to curb its nuclear program, Minister of National Infrastructure, Energy, and Water Yuval Steinitz said on Saturday 20 June, 2015. Steinitz was reacting to the annual report issued by Washington which determined that terrorist attacks worldwide surged by more than a third and fatalities soared by 81 percent in 2014. Last year also saw Islamic State eclipse al-Qaida as the leading jihadist terrorist group, the State Department said on Friday, 19 June, 2015. Steinitz, however, was more concerned with the report's findings on Iran. The minister said the report's conclusions "dealt a death knell" to "the American delusion

according to which an easing of sanctions as part of an interim nuclear treaty would lead to a moderation of its position.” (Jerusalem Post)

**HERZOG TO FRENCH FM: ISRAEL, WORLD WILL PAY HEAVY PRICE FOR MISTAKE IN IRAN NEGOTIATIONS:** Opposition leader Isaac Herzog spoke with France's foreign minister on Friday, 19 June, 2015, ahead of Laurent Fabius' official visit to the region. Fabius headed to the Middle East this weekend to drum up support for an initiative aimed at bringing Israel and the Palestinians back to the negotiating table, under an international framework. Iran, however, took center stage during the "lengthy" phone call, according to a statement released by Herzog's office, with the Zionist Union leader saying Israel could not "feel safe or certain" in the face of agreements being reached with Iran. Herzog, who is currently in London on an official state visit, told Fabius it was "vital" that world powers negotiating with Iran "won't compromise on important issues such as oversight" on the country's uranium enrichment and nuclear plants. "Any mistake in negotiations" between six world powers and Iran, he cautioned, "means Israel - and the rest of the world - will pay a heavy price." France's foreign minister is headed to Jerusalem for meetings with PA President Mahmoud Abbas and PM Benjamin Netanyahu. (J. Post)

**STUDENTS WHO FLY ABROAD TO UNDERGO PUBLIC DIPLOMACY LESSONS:** A new initiative currently underway, takes students who are meant to fly abroad on delegations, and requires them to undergo a minimum of 10 hours of public diplomacy training. The effort is meant to combat the de-legitimization of Israel abroad. The first course is currently underway, and is attended by students who will be sent to Germany, China and France. The decision to conduct the training was made in the Education Ministry following Israel's defensive military operation Protective Edge, as criticism of Israel and its policies grew around the world, and due to the recent discussion surrounding the boycott movement. The youth delegations are made up of students who fly to international competitions. From now on they must undergo a minimum of 10 hours of training, during which they will learn about the Israel-Palestinian conflict, the policies of the State of Israel, and will be equipped with tools to deal with bodies who "seek to de-legitimize Israel and her image." At the end of the course every group will be assigned a task specific to the country they will be visiting. (Ynet)

**GROUP OF 78 'LOST JEWS' FROM INDIA MAKES ALIYAH:** The Shavei Israel organization days ago brought a group of 78 Bnei Menashe immigrants from the northeastern Indian state of Manipur, which borders Burma and Bangladesh. Absorption Minister Ze'ev Elkin greeted the immigrants upon arrival. They will be settled on the Golan Heights, which was the tribal patrimony of Menashe (Manasseh) in Biblical times. This is the first time that Shavei Israel is settling a group of Bnei Menashe on the Golan, some 2,700 years after their ancestors were exiled from the land. The new arrivals bring the number of Bnei Menashe immigrants to 3,000. (Arutz-7)

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