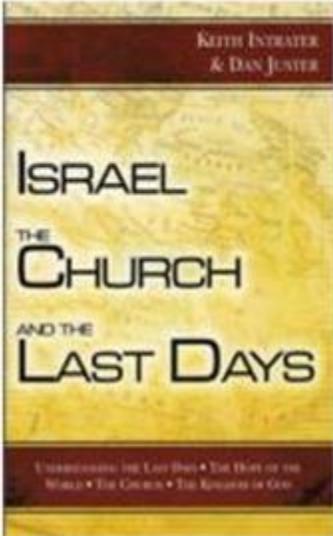


## **Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update August 28, 2015**

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**ABBAS BUILDS HIMSELF A 13 MILLION ROYAL PALACE:** Palestinian Authority (PA) chairman Mahmoud Abbas is building a \$13 million palace for himself in Ramallah, the PA governmental seat in Samaria. The Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) this week posted pictures of, "The Presidential Guest Palace in Ramallah." Abbas often refers to himself as the "president of Palestine," leaving no doubts that the palace is indeed intended for his luxury. The soon to be completed palace is to sprawl over 27,000 square meters of land, and is itself to be 4,700 square meters in size. Along with the palace, a "building for the Presidential Administration and Guards" is also being constructed spanning 4,000 square meters. Two helipads for helicopter transport are also to be built on the grounds of the palace, which according to architectural sketches on the site is to be nothing short of royal in terms of its design and scale. The \$13 million for the palace is being financed by the PLO's budget, which is deeply debt ridden and largely propped up by USA donations. The fact that PEDCAR, which answers to Abbas, found the construction of a \$13 million palace for Abbas to be a "national priority" throws into further relief the massive corruption in the PA, where Abbas continues to rule despite his term having expired in January 2009. (Arutz-7)

**“PA CORRUPTION IS OBVIOUS ON THE GROUND”:** Arab journalist Khaled Abu Toameh wrote an article in the Gatestone Institute last week detailing the Palestinian corruption. Abu noted that "Palestinian economic analysts estimate that the PA has received a total of \$25 billion in financial aid from the USA and other countries during the past two decades," ever since the PA was established in the Oslo Accords. "One does not have to be an expert on Palestinian affairs to see that the billions of dollars have neither created democracy for the Palestinians nor boosted the Israeli-Palestinian peace process." In comments that echo resoundingly, given the new PA palace construction project, Abu Toameh wrote, "one does not need to ask Palestinian Authority officials about the way they spent the American aid money because the reality on the ground is too obvious. The PA took the billions of dollars and continues to operate as a corrupt and undemocratic regime. Democracy is the last thing the Palestinians expect to see from the PA or Hamas." (Israel National News)

**PRESIDENT OF REFUGEES OR HOLY LAND CELERITY?** The Palestinian Authority and its collaborators in the mainstream media like to paint the Palestinian-controlled territories as a land oppressed and destitute. But one has only to look at the palatial living standards of the Palestinian leadership to realize something's fishy. This week, photos emerged on social media showing the newly completed palace of Palestinian "president" Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah. Many commenters could be excused for at first glance thinking this was an artist's rendition of the historical and grandiose Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.

Several years ago, the Jerusalem Institute of Justice (JIJ) conducted research revealing that since the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1995, the Palestinian Authority had received 25 times more financial aid per capita (considering current inflation) than the citizens of Europe received under the Marshall Plan following World War II. For those who know their history, the Marshall Plan financially enabled Europe to successfully rebuild following the most devastating war in history. And yet, having been handed 25 times more cash and resources than post-war Europe, the PA continues to complain of unemployment, a faltering economy and destitute living conditions. But hey, they've got enough to build presidential palaces! (Israel Today/ Ryan Jones)

**JERUSALEM SUFFERING WAVE OF PALESTINIAN ARAB VIOLENCE:** Palestinian Arab assailants on Thursday, 27 August, 2015 hurled firebombs at an Israel Police vehicle in eastern Jerusalem. The occupants of the vehicle were able to escape as it went up in flames, but suffered smoke inhalation. A day earlier, a knife-wielding terrorist stabbed and wounded an Israeli police officer near Jerusalem's Damascus Gate. He tried to stab several other Israelis before being overpowered and arrested. The attacker had previously murdered Israeli Jewish historian Menachem Stern in 1989. In 2013, the stabber was set free as part of a highly controversial prisoner release corresponding to USA-brokered peace negotiations. Over the past two months, Jerusalem has experienced no fewer than 580 reported attacks on civilians and security forces. Aryeh King, a right-wing member of Jerusalem's City Council, accused the government of tying the hands of the security forces in dealing with this phenomenon for fear of a political backlash. (Israel Today)

**HAMAS SHOWCASES TERROR TUNNEL UNIT IN NEW VIDEO:** A new clip published by Hamas on Wednesday night, 26 August, 2015 depicts terrorist fighters training for attacks against Israel inside terror tunnels. These underground tunnels, which connect Hamas-controlled Gaza to Israel's southern Gaza belt, have been preserved or rebuilt since Operation Protective Edge last summer. The terrorists of the so-called "tunnel unit" are seen practicing organized action, infiltration, attacking Israel military and civilian targets and evacuation of the wounded. In the carefully edited video, Hamas terrorists simulate firing at Israeli targets, taking over military posts and murdering an Israeli soldier at close range. Early on Thursday morning, 27 August, 2015 terrorists in Gaza fired a rocket into southern Israel. No injuries or damage were reported. In response, the Israel Air Force launched an airstrike against a weapons manufacturing site belonging to Hamas in central Gaza. (Arutz-7)

**TOP IRANIAN POLITICIAN SAYS ISRAEL SHOULD BE ANNIHILATED:** A senior Iranian official has reiterated that Iran views the annihilation of the State of Israel as its most central foreign policy, despite warming relations with western powers. The Iranian Parliament Speaker's Adviser for International Affairs, Hossein Sheikholeslam, made the comments in a speech in Tehran, during which he also attacked the British Foreign Secretary for suggesting Iran's hostility towards Israel had softened since the nuclear deal. "Our positions against the usurper Zionist regime have not changed at all; Israel should be annihilated and this is our ultimate slogan," Sheikholeslam said Tuesday, 25 August, 2015.

He was responding to an interview given by UK Foreign Secretary Phillip Hammond following the reopening of the British embassy in Tehran, during which Hammond claimed the current Iranian regime was displaying a "more nuanced" approach towards the Jewish state than previous ones. "What we're looking for is behavior from Iran, not only towards Israel but towards other players in the region, that slowly rebuilds their sense that Iran is not a threat to them," Hammond added. Sheikholeslam also rebuffed Hammond's call for past hostilities between Iran and Britain to be forgotten, retorting that Iran ""will never forget the past and Britain's colonialist moves." (Times of Israel/INN)

**200 RETIRED AMERICAN GENERALS URGE CONGRESS TO REJECT IRAN DEAL:** A group of nearly 200 retired generals and admirals sent a letter to Congress Wednesday, 26 August, 2015 urging lawmakers to reject the Iran nuclear agreement. The letter is the latest in a blizzard of missives petitioning Congress to either support or oppose the agreement with Iran. The latest letter, addressed to Republican and Democratic leaders in the Senate and the House, is a response to one sent last week by three dozen retired senior military officers who support the nuclear deal. "The agreement will enable Iran to become far more dangerous, render the Mideast still more unstable and introduce new threats to American interests as well as our allies," the letter states. The signatories include retired generals and officers from every branch of service. Many of them served in the White House, under Democratic administrations as well as Republican. The only thing they appear to have in common is that they consider the Iran deal a threat to USA interests in the region and its own national security. (Arutz-7)

**TRIPLE JUMPER WINS ISRAEL'S SECOND-EVER SILVER MEDAL AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS:** Triple jumper Hanna Knyazyeva-Minenko became only the second Israeli to win a silver medal at the World Championships in Athletics. Knyazyeva-Minenko jumped 14.78 meters, or 48.49 feet, in Beijing this week at the 15th annual games, a biennial meet run by the International Association of Athletics Federations. The 25-year-old Ukraine émigré is the first Israeli woman to finish second at the meet. (JTA)

**ISRAELI WINS BRONZE MEDAL IN WORLD JUDO CHAMPIONSHIP:** Golan Pollack of Israel made history on Tuesday, 25 August, 2015 by bringing home the bronze for the under 66-Kg category at the World Judo Championship held this year in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan. The 23-year-old, who was ranked 23 in the world, became the first Israeli to take home a medal at the elite competition since Arik Ze'evi won silver in 2001. Pollack faced Tumurkhuleg Davaadorj of Mongolia in the end, ensuring his name on the medal by taking down his seasoned opponent with just five seconds remaining on the clock. This is Pollack's first medal in a major international tournament. It came just a day after Israeli triple-jumper Hanna Knyazyeva-Minenko won the silver medal for her sport in the World Athletics Championship in Beijing. (Arutz-7)

**ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY FORMER SENIOR U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS RELEASED A LETTER ON WEDNESDAY ADDRESSED TO BOTH THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,** arguing that the final deal poses a threat to U.S. national security and fails to prevent the Islamic Republic from obtaining nuclear weapons. In a direct rebuttal to the White House's claim that the deal prevents Iran from developing nuclear weapons, the military officers write that, in fact, the agreement "does not 'cut off every pathway' for Iran to acquire nuclear weapons." They explain that Iran can acquire the nuclear capability "simply by abiding by the deal." The former officials then list the most egregious failures of the final agreement, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), reached on July 14: 1) the deal is not verifiable, 2) Iran's nuclear infrastructure will remain intact, instead of being dismantled, and 3) the ultimate enforcement mechanism—re-imposition of sanctions—is not credible. The signatories of the letter also warned lawmakers about granting sanctions relief to Iran, the world's largest state-sponsor of terror. The letter characterizes the decision to provide Iran with a windfall of cash estimated at \$150 billion as "unconscionable." The letter concludes that the JCPOA, "far from being an alternative to war... makes it likely that the war the Iranian regime has waged against us since 1979 will continue, with far higher risks to our national security interests." The Washington Post reported that a number of those on the letter "served in the White House, under Democratic administrations as well as Republican." Congress will vote on a motion of disapproval in mid-September. In the latest news, on Thursday, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) declared her opposition to the deal stating that she is "concerned that, even if Iran complies with the restraints spelled out throughout the life of the agreement, the deal does not block Iran from eventually acquiring nuclear weapons." She is the seventh Democrat from New York to oppose the JCPOA.

**A RECENTLY RELEASED PROPAGANDA VIDEO BY HAMAS UNVEILS THE ISLAMIST TERRORIST GROUP'S NEWLY REBUILT TUNNEL INFRASTRUCTURE** and showcases its extensive investments in military training and weapons, Ynet reported today. The video shows terrorists brandishing new weapons while practicing combat and ambush techniques against simulated Israeli “targets” at sophisticated training facilities. At one point, the terrorists are filmed relaxing in a reinforced tunnel before emerging and launching a mock attack. Hamas’ efforts to rearm and rebuild its terror infrastructure have taken precedence over the reconstruction of Gaza’s homes and civilian facilities, which continues to lag. Gaza’s minister of housing and public works, as well as other Palestinian officials and UN representatives, agreed that Israel had carried out its responsibilities in the reconstruction process “in reasonable time and had allowed cement into Gaza,” according to a recent article in The New York Times. Instead, the Palestinian leaders blamed the delays on “empty coffers.” The Times further reported: Israeli, Palestinian and United Nations officials acknowledge that cement has flooded Gaza’s black market, with some undoubtedly ending up in the militants’ underground tunnel network — the very thing the monitoring system was set up to prevent. “We know and believe that some of it goes to the wrong places,” said Maj. Adam Avidan, Israel’s point person on the mechanism. At one point, 18 of 30 beneficiaries bought their full allotment of cement and “went the same day and sold it on the black market,” he said. “They didn’t build their houses.” About 37,000 tons of cement sits unused in Gaza warehouses, nearing or past its expiration date for load-bearing projects. In April, reports surfaced that Hamas was rebuilding its terror tunnels and rearming with Iranian support. Israel permitted the transfer of 44,317 truckloads of goods into Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing between January and July, and allowed 1,000 tons of cement into the territory in March. Last December, Palestinian sources in Gaza told Ynet that Hamas was restocking its rocket arsenal and confiscating materials intended for civilian reconstruction in order to rebuild its tunnel network. A month earlier, Egyptian authorities estimated that Hamas was spending \$140 million annually to dig its tunnels, including by the use of child labor. Last year, Neri Zilber observed that, while Fatah and Hamas fight over control of Gaza’s reconstruction, “Israel, of all the parties involved, has shown the greatest degree of flexibility towards a Gaza Strip still ruled by Hamas.” (via TheTower.org)

**SYRIAN LEADER BASHAR ASSAD DECLARED IN AN INTERVIEW ON WEDNESDAY THAT THE NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN WILL STRENGTHEN HIS REGIME.** In his attempt to hold on to power, the Assad regime has indiscriminately bombed its own people, using barrel bombs as well as chemical weapons during a civil war that has claimed the lives of more than 240,000 people. Assad argued that “the power of Iran is the power of Syria, and a victory for Syria is a victory for Iran.” He described Russia and Iran as steadfast allies, while asserting that “the United States abandons its allies, abandons its friends.” Iran provides Syria with \$6 billion per year and has sent Hezbollah forces and IRGC personnel to Syria to bolster the Assad regime’s battle against the rebels. While Hezbollah’s finances have suffered and Assad’s current position is more precarious, a new influx of cash from a newly enriched Iran could boost the Syrian regime’s position. Washington Institute Fellow Andrew Tabler argues that the deal would “dramatically improve the prospects for the Assad

regime's survival." Iran has been covertly recruiting Shia Afghan refugees to fight for Assad. Phillip Smyth, an expert on Shiite militant groups, estimates that there are 2,000 to 3,500 Afghans currently fighting for Assad in Syria who "have suffered the fate of being used as cannon fodder." Smyth explained that while some are coerced into fighting in Syria, others are persuaded by the promise of Iranian residency papers and a better salary. Michael Eisenstadt, Director of the Military and Security Studies Program at the Washington Institute, pointed out that Iran prefers using Arab proxies to do its bidding and suggested, "A fresh infusion of cash might therefore enable it [Iran] to expand recruitment of proxies in the region, including Afghani and Pakistani Shiites." Despite claims that the deal with Iran is solely about Iran's nuclear program, the agreement appears to be part of a broader attempt at rapprochement with Iran. President Barack Obama has stated that Iran could be a "very successful regional power" and Secretary of State John Kerry has indicated a desire to engage with Tehran on regional issues. Whereas previously the US refused to let the regime participate in peace talks to promote a political transition in Syria, President Obama now asserts that it is important for Iran to be a part of them.

**IRAN'S PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN, WHICH IS GROWING ALONGSIDE THAT OF THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND SYRIA (ISIS), "PROMOTES CHAOS AND RADICALISM"** within the country and harms "forces of moderation and order," Kyle Orton argued in an analysis published today at National Review Online. While Iran has claimed that it has increased its funding to the Taliban in order to fight ISIS, Orton observed that this claim is dubious because the record "shows consistent Iranian support for anti-Western Sunni jihadist forces in Afghanistan from the beginning of the Western intervention in 2001." Iranian financial support to the Taliban has been constant since 2001, and Iran's military support began before the invasion, continued during the invasion, when Iran offered anti-aircraft weapons to the Taliban to "use against the United States and Coalition forces," and has been increasing since at least early 2007. A congressional report from October 2014 noted that Iran's "lethal assistance, including light weapons," to the Taliban was ongoing. Iran "formalized its alliance with the Taliban by allowing the group to open an office in Mashhad" at the beginning of 2014, the Wall Street Journal recently reported. Iran has been "training Taliban fighters within its borders" at four terrorism camps. Even though Afghanistan is a Sunni majority country, Iran has a presence in its northern and western regions where Hazara Shiites lives. Iran has been recruiting Hazara Shiites to fight in Syria and defend the regime of President Bashar al-Assad. Back in June, The Wall Street Journal reported on Iran's expanded financial and military support of the Taliban. As Orton noted, the Taliban is not the only Sunni jihadist group supported by Iran, which also backs al-Qaeda. In May, Michael Pregent produced a map of Iraq showing that Tehran, despite its claims to the contrary, was not working to defeat ISIS. Pregent observed that Iran sees ISIS presence in Iraq and Syria as a means to justify its own activities there, and to assert "that their allies in both countries are the only thing preventing a jihadist takeover." (via The Tower.org)

**SIMILARITIES BETWEEN LEUKEMIA AND HIV RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN AN ISRAELI LAB MIGHT PROVIDE IMPORTANT CLUES IN THE SEARCH FOR A CLINICAL SOLUTION TO PREVENT** and destroy the human

immunodeficiency virus, which can lead to the chronic and fatal condition AIDS. Microbiology and immunology researchers in the lab of Prof. Ran Taube at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) say their discovery is a significant breakthrough. “Until now, medical researchers had very limited information on the existence of a connection between AIDS, caused by the HIV virus, and a rare blood cancer, known as mixed lineage leukemia (MLL),” explained Taube. “MLL, found mostly in children, hinders blood-system cell development.” In MLL, there is damage to the reproduction mechanisms that normally control the expression of the genes responsible for manufacturing stem cells in the bone marrow. Taube said something similar happens with the HIV virus when it enters a chronic state. “This research is based on the assumption that damage to the mechanisms of expression and reproduction of the viral genome is responsible for the accumulation of the latent HIV virus and leads to the chronic disease condition,” said Taube, whose lab focuses on understanding viral-host interactions that promote human diseases. They are now seeking innovative ways to “wake up” HIV from its silent state, while at the same time applying anti-retroviral medications to eradicate the virus completely. (via Israel21c)

**CRUZ’S EVANGELICAL OUTREACH SHIFTS INTO HIGH GEAR:** Sen. Ted Cruz will take a lead role in the launch this week of a 50-state campaign to end taxpayer support for Planned Parenthood - a move that is likely to give the GOP candidate a major primary-season boost in the fierce battle for social-conservative and evangelical voters. More than 100,000 pastors received e-mail invitations over the weekend to participate in conference calls with Cruz this week in which they will learn details of the plan to mobilize churchgoers in every congressional district beginning Aug. 30, 2015. “The recent exposure of Planned Parenthood’s barbaric practices has brought about a pressing need to end taxpayer support of this institution,” Cruz said in the e-mail call to action.

On the campaign trail, Cruz has urged people to watch the controversial Planned Parenthood videos and has repeatedly attacked the Supreme Court. In an recent op-ed in USA Today, Cruz wrote that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.) shouldn’t allow any legislation to be heard that would give federal money to Planned Parenthood. Cruz and Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) have each proposed defunding Planned Parenthood and suggested that they would let the government shut down before yielding. Any shutdown would be the fault of Democrats, who would have to be “willing to try to shut down the government in order to force continued taxpayer funding from an organization that has now been caught on film admitting to multiple felonies,” said Cruz. (Washington Post)

**IAEA WARNS IT DOESN’T HAVE ENOUGH FUNDS TO MONITOR IRAN:** The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is warning that it will run out of funding to uphold the recent Iran deal by next month. IAEA chief Yukiya Amano has called on the group's member states to give more money. Amano says that the new work in Iran will require 160,000 Euro (\$184,000 US) per month until the deal is fully implemented, and then 9.2 million Euro (\$10.6 million US) per year. With Amano’s announcement - Obama to the rescue - the USA quickly guaranteed it will make sure the International Atomic Energy Agency has enough money to report on Iran's past, present and future nuclear programs. (Aurtz-7/Jerusalem Post)

**ABBAS: IRAN IS ‘OUR NEIGHBOR, A SISTER NATION’:** Palestinian Authority chief Mahmoud Abbas confirmed that he would soon be traveling to Iran. After announcing over the weekend that he would resign as chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Abbas said that while he would definitely travel to Iran, no date for the visit has yet been set. Based on his remarks, the visit can't come soon enough for Abbas. “Iran is a neighbor, a sister nation,” he said at a press conference announcing the visit. “Our relations with Iran were not good in the past, but we do have an embassy there and they recognize us.” The visit was suggested, he said, by a member of the PLO Executive. “He had spoken to the Iranians about improving relations with Tehran, and given the new agreement on Iran's nuclear program with Western countries, the time was right for the visit.” (Arutz-7)

**TEAM OBAMA WINS MERCY FOR A SPONSOR OF TERRORISM:** in February, 2015 a Manhattan federal jury sent a critical message about holding the perpetrators of terror responsible: It found the Palestinian Authority liable for six attacks and assessed \$218.5 million in damages. But on Monday, 24 August, 2015, thanks to Team Obama, that message was all but obliterated. After an unusual intercession by the State and Justice departments, the judge hearing the case ordered the PA to post \$10 million cash plus another \$1 million a month as a bond while the case is appealed. That’s a far cry from the \$30 million a month the victorious plaintiffs had sought. And it’s a pittance next to what most other defendants would have to post. The jurors held the PA responsible for attacks from 2002 to 2004 that killed 33 and wounded 400 others. The plaintiffs - 10 USA families directly affected by the terrorism - showed the PA employed the perpetrators and made payments to suicide bombers’ families. The usual appeals bond is 111% of the verdict — which in this case would be \$655 million, since the amount is tripled under the 1992 USA Anti-Terrorism Act. But the Obama administration pushed Judge George Daniels not to hit the PA too hard for fear it might collapse and endanger “a two-state solution” to the Middle East conflict. So Daniels wound up assessing exactly what the PA said it could pay. That token amount probably won’t even cut into the PA’s subsidy for convicted terrorists — payments one official likened to “Social Security.” (NY Post)

**WESTERN MEDIA FINALLY REPORTS ON LUXURY LIFE IN GAZA:** The world has grown accustomed to the media portrayal of Palestinians in Gaza as oppressed people fighting to survive in a perpetual war zone. However, when a Western journalist actually visited the Strip, he encountered a completely different reality: Palestinians enjoying a rich cultural life, recreation and entertainment similar to the lifestyle enjoyed by the middle-class in other places across the globe. “Alongside the Hamas [terrorist] training camps and bombed-out neighborhoods, there is a parallel reality where the small but tough Palestinian middle class here is wooed by massage therapists, spin classes and private beach resorts,” according to a Washington Post feature. The article acknowledges mainstream media’s focus on the misery in Gaza, but a visit there also reveals “new luxury-car dealerships, boutiques selling designer jeans and, coming soon a hip downtown restaurant, “Sushi Nights.” Mohammad Migdad, a trainer at a luxurious gym that boasts some 500 members, told the Post: “We expend our energies here in sport instead of sitting around depressed or becoming extremists.” (UWI)

**UNRWA CARTOONS PROMOTE CAR-TERRORISM AGAINST JEWS:** UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees) is "disseminating crude, antisemitic caricatures on the Internet that incite to the murder of Jews," according to a letter of protest on the topic written by UN Watch, a non-governmental organization that monitors human-rights abuses in the United Nations. Two antisemitic cartoons in particular – both added on Facebook by the "Rameh UNRWA School" in Syria - were noted by UN Watch. They both promote and praise the car-terrorist attacks perpetrated several times this year by Palestinian terrorists against Jews and Israelis. One cartoon shows a young Arab boy happily sending off a toy car by remote-control towards a long-nosed Jew dressed in black running away in fear. A second cartoon shows a road sign with the picture of a car running down Jewish pedestrians.

In a letter Tuesday, 25 August, to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, UN Watch Executive Director Hillel Neuer writes that his organization is "gravely concerned that UNRWA, which received some \$400 million from the USA last year in exchange for its signed promise to refrain from supporting terrorism and to uphold neutrality, is nevertheless disseminating crude, anti-Semitic caricatures on the Internet that incite to the murder of Jews. We respectfully demand that you take action immediately to remove the images, apply accountability to the highest levels of UNRWA, and apologize for inciting to racism." Days ago, media sources reported that UNRWA teachers in Gaza, Judea and Samaria, Lebanon and Jordan received no disciplinary action for supporting antisemitism and terrorism on social media. (Arutz-7)

**INTERNAL SECURITY MINISTER: OUTLAW RADICAL MUSLIM GROUPS THAT HARASS JEWS ON TEMPLE MOUNT:** Israel's Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan, backed by the Israel Security Agency and the Israel Police, called on Monday, 24 August, 2015 to outlaw two groups of Muslim radicals who go to the Temple Mount on a daily basis to harass and intimidate Jewish visitors. "Morabiton" and "Morabitat" are Islamic fundamentalists paid by the Islamic Movement in Israel to shout at and block Jewish visitors to the site. "Their aim is to limit Jews wishing to visit the Temple Mount through violence and intimidation," Erdan said. (Jerusalem Post)

**ISRAELI STARTUP THAT TURNS MANURE INTO FUEL IS CHANGING THE LIVES OF RURAL PALESTINIANS:** An Israeli startup is making the lives of Palestinians in rural areas of Judea & Samaria and Bedouins in Israel's Negev desert easier and healthier. HomeBioGas, based in the Beit Yanai moshav in central Israel, has invented a portable "anaerobic digester" that turns kitchen waste and livestock manure into cooking-gas. "Families in these areas not only live off the grid," said HomeBioGas sales manager Ron Yariv. "But they dwell in tents or tin huts." This, he said, forces them to burn wood from trees or goat manure to generate fire for cooking. "This is arduous and dangerous," he said. "It is also very harmful to the environment." So far, the company has installed 37 systems, one per family. In two months, another 37 will be delivered. The portable product is as unobtrusive as the individual gas tanks commonly used in Israel, hooks up to the stove, also provided by the company, with a pipe. The families in the pilot project were given instructions on how to save and funnel their organic waste

into the device for optimal use. Subsequent follow-up visits have been regular. (Algemeiner)

**FOUR ROCKETS HIT NORTHERN ISRAEL:** Four projectiles hit Israel late Thursday afternoon, 20 August, 2015 in the Upper Galilee region in the north near the Lebanese border after "color red" warning sirens were sounded in the area - in an assault that comes even as the IDF is preparing for rocket attacks from Gaza in the south. One of the explosions hit the Golan Heights and three hit the "finger" region of the Upper Galilee. They struck open ground and caused no injuries. A fire was set off by the blasts. Sirens were heard in several towns before the strikes to the east of Kiryat Shmona. The sirens came even as the IDF is continuing to ramp up preparations for the possibility of a barrage of rocket fire from Gaza, in the event that hunger striking Islamic Jihad terrorist Mohammed Allan should die from his extended self-imposed refusal of food. After deploying the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system in the coastal city of Ashdod on Thursday morning, the IDF deployed the system around the southern city of Be'er Sheva as well several hours later. Both cities were hard hit by rockets fired by Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah terrorists in last summer's terror war. (Arutz-7)

**ISRAEL TO WEST: 'YOUR PARTNER IRAN ATTACKED US; YOUR RESPONSE?':** By direct order of PM Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Foreign Ministry has dispatched an official letter of protest to the Western countries that signed the nuclear agreement with Iran – regarding the Iran-ordered attack on Israel on Thursday, 20 August, 2015. Four rockets were fired from the Syrian border Thursday evening, hitting areas in the northern Galilee and the Golan Heights. Fortunately no one was hurt, but "this was an indiscriminate terrorist attack, planned in advance, with no prior Israeli provocation," the letter stated. Israel informed the Western powers that it has "reliable information that this attack was carried out by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, ordered directly by the Iranian terrorist Said Izadhi of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards." The letter further states: "This is further clear indication of Iran's increasing involvement in attacks against Israel in particular and against regional targets in general. The ink on the nuclear agreement has not yet dried, and this attack shows clearly how Iran plans to act the moment after the international sanctions are removed." Israel attributes responsibility to the Western powers, led by the United States: "The international community, headed by those who signed on the deal, cannot allow Iran to attain international and political legitimacy even as it continues to act directly and actively in terrorist attacks throughout the Middle East." In conclusion, Israel demands that the countries that signed with Iran now intervene against Iran's increasing belligerence. Israel eliminated the four-man Islamic Jihad terror cell responsible for the attack on Friday morning, 21 August, 2015 striking them as they were in a vehicle ten to 15 kilometers from the Syrian border. (Arutz-7)

**ISRAEL DEFENSE CHIEFS SEE WAR WITH HEZBOLLAH AS MATTER OF 'WHEN', NOT 'IF':** The State of Israel has already seen a number of wars on each of its fronts, yet after years in which its wars were against states across defined frontiers, today it is dealing with circumstances that are as complex as they have ever been. Defense officials understand that the next military action in the north will be the most difficult we

will ever know, and that the effort will be aimed at organizations that have no scruples and know no bounds. If the next conflagration will erupt against Hezbollah in Lebanon, there is no doubt that the Shi'ite group, which already controls a number of strategically important points in Syria, will open fire across the frontier on the Golan Heights. If Israel is attacked by global jihadist groups on the Golan Heights, there will also be a similar attack coming from Lebanon, where Islamist organizations are gaining greater traction.

Israeli intelligence has long concluded its fact-finding efforts aimed at gauging the quantities of firepower possessed by Hezbollah. Spies have since been hard at work in analyzing the types of weaponry. The conclusion they have reached is that these arms are not only lethal, but precise. Some of these weapons were developed and manufactured by Hezbollah itself, while a significant portion of the arms were provided by Iran. It is a consensus view that Israel is dealing with a full-fledged military organization. (Jerusalem Post)

**ISRAEL TESTING 'TOP PRIORITY' ANTI-TUNNEL MEASURES:** A year after Hamas used cross-border tunnels to launch deadly attacks during the Gaza war, Israel is testing new techniques to detect the hidden passages as a "top priority," sources say, but has yet to announce the system fully operational. Beyond standard military secrecy, the reticence to trumpet the measures may be to mask lingering short-falls in the system. Israel has been testing half a dozen technologies for spotting movement or cavities below ground, or the resulting disruption of the earth above, using dummy tunnels in a desert base in southern Israel. Foreign geologists and surveillance experts have been helping, the military sources said. The anti-tunnel system is a "top priority" for the Defence Ministry, said one security source involved in the project, adding, "It's working, but it still isn't 100 percent." (Ynet)

**MASSIVE EXPLOSIONS ROCK CAIRO; FOUR PALESTINIANS ABDUCTED IN EGYPT'S SINAI PENINSULA:** Terrorist group, ISIS's Egypt affiliate was behind a car bombing that wounded 30 people, including 8 policemen, near a state security building and courthouse in a Cairo suburb on Thursday, 20 August, 2015. A statement circulated on Twitter by supporters of the group, Sinai Province, said the bomb was a reprisal for the execution of six of its members convicted of carrying out an attack north of the Egyptian capital last year. Massive explosions rocked Cairo's Shubra district before dawn, the apparent target being the National Security Apparatus building. Egypt's Interior Ministry said the blast was caused by a parked car laden with explosives while media sources reported that three vehicles are believed to have detonated simultaneously. The multiple blasts came a short time after a bus traveling in the northern Sinai Peninsula from Rafah to the Cairo Airport was ambushed by gunmen and four Palestinians of the fifty passengers on board were taken captive according to Egyptian sources. An official of Hamas confirmed the kidnappings to media sources. (Reuters/Mideast Daily News)

**HALF OF JERUSALEM ARABS WANT TO BE ISRAELIS:** A slim majority of Palestinians living in Jerusalem would prefer Israeli citizenship to being citizens of a Palestinian state, a poll conducted by a Palestinian research institute indicates. Just over half, or 52 percent, of respondents told pollsters they would prefer "Israeli citizenship with equal rights," while 42% prefer to be Palestinian citizens when a Palestinian state is

established, Channel 2 reported Wednesday, 19 August, 2015. In Gaza, just 4% said they preferred Israeli citizenship; in Judea & Samaria, just 12%. The figure marks a spike in desire for Israeli citizenship. A similar poll in 2010 found just one-third of East Jerusalem Arabs preferred Israeli citizenship to Palestinian. Previous polls asked respondents who said they preferred Israeli citizenship the reasons for their preference. The most commonly cited reasons were improved employment prospects, modern medical services and guaranteed access to comprehensive health insurance. Of the respondents, 47% said they would prefer to work in an Israeli workplace, even if it meant changing their lifestyle. (Times of Israel)

**UN TO LET IRAN INSPECT ITS OWN NUCLEAR WORK SITE:** Iran will be allowed to use its own inspectors to investigate the Parchin nuclear site it has been accused of using to develop nuclear arms, operating under a secret agreement with the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency that normally carries out such work. The Parchin agreement was worked out between the IAEA and Iran, and the world powers were not party to it. Olli Heinonen, who was in charge of the Iran probe as deputy IAEA director general from 2005 to 2010, said he could think of no similar concession with any other country. Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) responded: "Trusting Iran to inspect its own nuclear site and report to the UN in an open and transparent way is remarkably naive and incredibly reckless. This revelation only reinforces the deep-seated concerns the American people have about the agreement." (AP)

**BRITAIN TO REOPEN EMBASSY IN IRAN AFTER FOUR YEARS:** Britain will reopen its embassy in the Iranian capital Tehran this weekend nearly four years after demonstrators stormed the building, a UK diplomatic source said on Thursday, 20 August, 2015. "The foreign secretary will travel to Iran to reopen our embassy there," the source told reporters. The embassy was closed in November 2011, after a mob of activists and hardliners stormed its buildings to protest USA sanctions on Iran. The protesters climbed the walls of the embassy, looted property and burned flags. UK media sources reported that the embassy would be staffed by a small number of diplomats at first. The name of the new ambassador has yet to be announced. (Ha'aretz)

**300 TONS OF LOOTED GOLD FOUND IN NAZI TRAIN:** Two people in Poland claim to have found an abandoned Nazi train from World War II, which they say is full of 300 tons of gold, precious stones and weapons. The two, one from Poland and the other from Germany, have reported their find to the Walbrzych District Council in southwest Poland, and have offered to give the location of the train - if they are promised a 10% cut of the looted treasure's value. Given that 300 tons of gold would be worth \$1.09 billion today, that 10% would equal over \$100 million. It would appear the train is one of many that the Nazis used to bring goods stolen from Jews and other victims in eastern Europe back to Berlin in Germany. Near the end of the war as the genocidal Nazi regime crumbled, the train apparently was deserted as Soviet soldiers pushed back Adolf Hitler's troops. Marika Tokarska, an official at the Walbrzych District Council, said that the council was indeed contacted by a law firm working for the two people who made the discovery. According to her, the offer to divulge the train's location in return for a 10% cut is being taken "very seriously." (Arutz-7)



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