

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 11, 2015



*(L'Shana Tova / Have a happy Rosh Hashanah
Sundown on September 13, 2015 – 29 Elul, 5776)*

RUSSIA, IRAN SENDING MILITARY FORCES TO SAVE ASSAD'S REGIME:

An Iranian Islamic Republican Guards Corps (IRGC) force, comprised of hundreds of soldiers, has entered Syria to assist the embattled Assad regime, a senior security source said on Thursday, 10 September, 2015. Additionally, in a coordinated Iranian-Russian maneuver, Russian logistics military forces have begun arriving in the coastal region of Syria in recent days, to begin setting up Russian fighter jet and combat helicopter strike assets. Tehran dispatched its force "in light of Assad's" ongoing distress, the source stated, adding that the deployment is part of a wider Russian-Iranian coordinated effort to prevent what remains of the Assad regime from collapsing. The source described a meeting last month between Quds Force commander Qassam Suleimani and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow as an event preceding the Russian-Iranian military initiative to rescue Assad. In recent days, Russian military forces have begun entering Syria to set up air strike capabilities aimed at protecting the Assad regime, the source confirmed. He described the Russian deployment as a "new development," aimed at helping Assad retrieve areas that he has lost in the past year. (Jerusalem Post)

GIANT RUSSIAN TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT IN SYRIA RAISES CONCERNS:

Three giant Russian Condor transport aircraft have flown into the Assad International Airport near Latakia, Syria, over the past few days. They have unloaded large containers but it's not known yet what's in the containers. At the same time a passenger flight has arrived, presumably bringing people who will move into the modular housing which has

been erected at the airfield and can now hold in excess of 1,000 people. A USA official says every indication is that Russia is setting up a forward operating base, but for what reason remains unclear. It could be preparations for military intervention or it could be a ramping up of military deliveries to the Assad regime. The USA position is that "any effort to bolster the Assad regime would potentially be destabilizing." In addition to the activities at the air field, Russian special operations forces have been reported at the Syrian Naval Academy near Latikiya. (CBS)

ISRAEL WARY OF RUSSIAN MILITARY BUILD-UP IN SYRIA: Indications of increased Russian involvement in Syria in support of President Bashar Assad are prompting a reassessment in Israel about how to handle fall-out from the conflict without risking a clash with Moscow. Since the Syrian civil war began in 2011, Israel has occasionally fired across the Golan Heights in response to spillover shelling or bombed advanced arms it suspected were to be transferred to Assad's Lebanese guerrilla allies, Hezbollah. USA and regional reports that Moscow's diplomatic and logistical support for Assad is shifting into major military backing has raised the prospect of Israel and Russia accidentally coming to blows. "There could be ramifications for us, certainly," Ram Ben-Barak, director-general of Israel's Intelligence Ministry, told media sources when asked if Russian intervention in Syria might necessitate new Israeli rules of engagement. USA authorities have detected "worrisome preparatory steps," including transport of prefabricated houses for hundreds of people to a Syrian airfield, that could signal Russia is readying for deployment of heavy military assets, a senior Washington official said last week. Syria has not formally responded to the reports. But one of its military officials has spoken of a "big shift" in Russia's military support for Damascus. (Jerusalem Post)

ISRAELIS SUFFER THROUGH WORST DUST STORM IN 10 YEARS: A thick haze blanketed the nation's skies for the third day in a row on Thursday 10 August as electricity consumption broke records amid escalating temperatures. Poor visibility, heavy heat and extreme mugginess are forecast throughout the country into Friday and beyond. The dusty weather is the heaviest and most polluting to hit the country in 15 years, according to the Environmental Protection Ministry. Visibility in most parts of the country ranged from 1 to 3 kilometers or even less, according to Israel Meteorological Service Climate Department head Dr. Amos Porat. The haze, which Porat described as "unprecedented for this time of year," was the result of sandstorms in Syria. There have been no reports of such heavy haze in early September since the country began recording weather measurements 75 years ago, Porat explained.

Syrian sandstorms, which have been raging in the neighboring country's deserts in recent days, were driven to this region by northeasterly winds at a low altitude, he said. "It is not clear what caused the exceptional sandstorms in Syria," Porat said. About 600 people have been treated at hospitals as a result of the dust storm. Overnight between Tuesday and Wednesday, minimum temperatures in most areas of the country were the highest ever measured for September, and those in the Dead Sea and Arava Desert were the

highest minimum temperatures ever recorded for any day of the year, according to IMS data. In Sodom, the minimum nighttime temperature was a suffocating 36.5°C'. Unseasonably warm conditions are expected to continue through Sunday. (Jerusalem Post)

KHAMENEI: ISRAEL WON'T SURVIVE NEXT 25 YEARS: Israel will not survive the next 25 years, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Wednesday, 9 September making a series of threatening remarks published online. In a quote posted to Twitter by Khamenei's official account, Khamenei addresses Israel, saying, "You will not see next 25 years," and adds that the Jewish state will be hounded until it is destroyed. The threats come against a backdrop of a photograph showing the Iranian leader walking on an Israeli flag painted on a sidewalk. The remarks came as US lawmakers began to debate supporting a recent nuclear agreement between Tehran and six world powers. Critics of the deal have pointed to fiery anti-USA and anti-Zionist rhetoric as proof that the regime should not be trusted. (Times of Israel)

NETANYAHU TO EU: STOP PRESSURING US INTO AGREEMENTS THAT ENDANGER OUR EXISTENCE: The European Union must stop pressuring Israel to enter dangerous agreements that threaten the future of the Jewish state, PM Benjamin Netanyahu said in Jerusalem on Monday night, 7 September, 2015. Europe "seeks to unilaterally press Israel into agreements that will endanger our very existence and therefore your very defense," Netanyahu publicly told visiting European Council President Donald Tusk. Netanyahu said he was glad to see Tusk both as a representative of the EU and as a personal friend. "I've known you for many years. You've been a great friend of Israel and of the Jewish people, "We welcome Europe," said Netanyahu, before quipping in an off-the-cuff remark, "Does Europe welcome Israel?"

"I find it perplexing that some in Europe are still possessed by the anti-Israeli obsession," Netanyahu lamented. Hundreds of thousands of people are being displaced and slaughtered in the Middle East, said Netanyahu. "But some in Europe believe the only thing they have to do is to press, boycott and vilify the Middle East's only true democracy, Israel," Netanyahu stated. "I find this inexplicable but I find it also to the detriment of Europe," he added. Both Israel and Europe face the common danger posed by extremist groups such as ISIS as well as by Iran's nuclear and military weapons program. Netanyahu said. (J. Post)

SURVEY FINDS 85% OF EUROPEAN JEWS FEAR BRINGING CHILDREN TO ROSH HASHANAH SERVICES: A massive majority of Jews in Europe are fearful of publicly identifying as Jewish, leading to decreased participation in ceremonies and prayer services, a new survey of European Jewish communities revealed. According to details published by Israel's Channel 2 this week 85% said they will not bring their children to synagogue on Rosh Hashanah out of concern for their safety. The survey, which revealed a widespread decreasing sense of personal security among Jews, was

conducted by the Rabbinical Center of Europe (RCE) in in 179 Jewish communities across the continent. European Jewish organizations are concerned over these statistics, because they further demonstrate the negative effects of the rise in antisemitism and nationalistic fervor across Europe, as well as the increasing level of Islamic immigration to the continent, on Europe's Jewish communities and the participation of their members in communal activities. "Rabbis and many community leaders from across Europe are, unfortunately, reporting an increase in Jews who are refraining from all public identification with their Judaism," said Rabbi Menachem Margolin, the head of the European Jewish Association. (Algemeiner)

ISRAELI TOURISM FINALLY RECOVERING AFTER GAZA WAR: Summer tourism to Israel is on the rise again, Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) data released Wednesday, 9 September, 2015 reveals, despite a significant drop following Operation Protective Edge in July-August 2014. 1.69 million tourists entered Israel through Ben-Gurion airport between January-August 2015, only 4% less than the same period in 2014 and 2% less than in 2013. "The recovery trend after Operation Protective Edge continues apace," Tourism Minister Yariv Levin (Likud) stated following the report. "I am pleased to see that the statistics show an increase of over 40% on 2014 and an almost complete return to the 2013 numbers." (Arutz-7)

THE SENATE MOTION TO END DEBATE ON THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL FAILED ON THURSDAY, denying the Senate an opportunity to exercise its voice over the agreement reached in July. Despite the bipartisan majority who oppose the deal, the procedural tactic of preventing the Senate from voting prevailed, a move that, according to Roll Call, the White House "badly" wanted to happen. On Wednesday, former Democratic Senator of Connecticut Joe Lieberman urged Senators to allow a vote to take place. He said, "It deserves a straight up or down vote." After the vote, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) declared, "The issue before us is of immense consequence to our country. The American people are entitled to a real voice, and to know where their elected Senators stand." Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-Texas) said, "There are going to be more votes. There will be other opportunities for people to change their mind next week, hopefully after they hear from their constituents." The vote comes on the heels of a series of poll data that reflects growing opposition of Americans to the deal. More Americans disapprove of the deal than approve of it.

Furthermore, many of the members in the House of Representatives have expressed outrage that the White House has not submitted the two secret side agreements between the IAEA and Iran. Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-Ohio), therefore, is currently deliberating whether to bring legal action against the President of the United States. Many representatives do not believe that the administration has complied with the terms of the Corker-Cardin legislation that requires the president to submit all related documents. Speaker Boehner issued a press release on Thursday stating that the House will act to "make clear President Obama did not submit all the required documents for

Congress and the American people to review as required.” Eugene Kontorovich, law professor at Northwestern University, published an article in The Washington Post making the case that a legal suit was possible due to a ruling from a D.C. Federal district court on Wednesday. He said the ruling provided an “opening for a congressional lawsuit challenging the [JCPOA].”

Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, declared on his English-language Twitter account today that Israel – or the “Zionist regime” – will be gone in 25 years. In his message, Khamenei said, “God willing there will be nothing of Zionist regime by 25 years.” He added, “Until then, struggling, heroic and Jihadi morale will leave no moment of serenity for Zionists.” The picture accompanying Khamenei’s remarks showed what appeared to be the Iranian leader walking over the image of an Israeli flag. Last month, the Supreme Leader said on the social media platform that Iran will “take all possible means to support anyone who fights Israel, is against the Zionist regime and supports resistance.” Following the agreement on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Supreme Leader tweeted out an image depicting President Barack Obama with a gun to his head. Last November, he tweeted a nine-point plan for the elimination of Israel. The Algemeiner reported that Khamenei’s Twitter account released a “blitz” of anti-American tweets last week. He accused the U.S. government of “global arrogance,” and said “Zionist companies” and “economic cartels” were behind it. ... “Enemy and global arrogance is not an illusion; it’s a reality, and its utmost epitome is U.S. government and Zionist and economic cartels backing it,” he said. He warned that the “short-term” cooperation with the United States should “not deceive us.” “We must always be aware of the enemy’s plots,” he wrote, adding a critique of what he called Western hypocrisy regarding terrorism, namely that countries such as the U.S. consider Iran a state sponsor of terrorism while backing governments like Saudi Arabia and Israel, which have waged war on Islamist terrorist groups in Yemen and the Gaza Strip, respectively. He said it was hypocritical to declare Lebanese and Palestinian “resistance movements” (Iran backs Lebanese Hezbollah, Hamas in Gaza and Palestinian Islamic Jihad) terrorist groups, while simultaneously backing Israeli “tyranny.” Khamenei often takes to Twitter to express anti-Israel and anti-American sentiments. (via TheTower.org)

IMMIGRATION SPIKED BY 35% THIS YEAR: Ahead of Rosh Hashana,(the Jewish New Year), the Jewish population stands at about 6.3 million residents. Jews makeup 75% of the Israeli population, Arabs 20%. The total population of Israel is estimated at 8.412 million residents, according to data published by the Central Bureau of Statistics for the new year. Since Rosh Hashana last year, the population grew by about 158,000 – a 1.9% spurt, similar to previous years. Some 168,000 babies were born and 42,000 people died in the course of the year. About 32,000 people were added to the population as a result of immigration – of these, 28,000 are considered “olim” (Jews who utilized their right of return to move to Israel). This is a spike of 35% over the previous year. Most of the olim came from the Ukraine (26%), France (25%), Russia (21%) and the USA (9%). (Arutz-7)

MAJOR DUST STORM HITS ISRAEL, MIDDLE EAST: Israel suffered from a severe dust storm Tuesday, 8 September, 2015 that swept in from Syria and Iraq overnight. The storm, which covered parts of the country in a heavy haze, posed a health risk to seniors, young children and pregnant woman, the country's environmental protection ministry said. The ministry recommended avoiding strenuous activities and spending prolonged periods of time outdoors due to the high concentration of dust particles in the air. Especially high levels of dust were registered in Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and Judea & Samaria. While the dust was expected to settle overnight Tuesday, the heat wave will continue through the better part of the week, meteorologists said. The storm engulfed the eastern Bekaa Valley in Lebanon and neighboring Syria the previous day. At least 80 people fainted or suffered breathing problems because of the fine dust, the Lebanese state news agency reported.(i24)

JERUSALEM YAWNS AT PA THREATS TO TEAR UP OSLO ACCORDS: Israeli officials dismissed as "more brinkmanship" the claim by PLO Executive Committee member Ahmed Majdalani on Sunday 6, September, 2015 that PA President Abbas plans to tell the UN General Assembly this month that he is no longer bound by the Oslo Accords. "The Palestinians have a history of negotiating through brinkmanship - either Abbas threatens to resign, or to dismantle the Palestinian Authority, or to annul the Oslo Accords," one Israeli government official said. "None of this is new," and is part of a Palestinian tactic to get the world to "hold it back" before it "jumps off the cliff." "This is a charade. The Palestinians refuse to negotiate and then say that it is time for radical steps because there are no negotiations." (Jerusalem Post)

CHENEY: EUROPEAN REFUGEE CRISIS ‘DIRECT CONSEQUENCE’ OF FAILED OBAMA POLICY: Former Vice President Dick Cheney said Sunday 6 September, 2015 that the European refugee crisis is “a direct consequence” of President Obama’s failed foreign policy and that he does not support the Iran nuclear deal. Cheney, who was vice president in the George W. Bush administration, said Obama has helped to “create a huge vacuum” in Iraq for terror groups like ISIS to flourish and kill by failing to secure an agreement with Iraqi leaders to keep American troops in the country after the war. “That contributed directly to the refugee crisis,” Cheney told media sources. “It’s a crisis of major proportions.” Tens of thousands of refugees from Syria, Iran, Pakistan and other Middle East countries are now flooding into Europe as a result of civil wars and terror attacks in that region. The war in Iraq began during the Bush administration, which established a troop-withdrawal date of December 2011. Regarding the USA's nuclear deal with Iran, Cheney also said that the deal is bad for the United States because “Iran got everything they asked for.” The international deal lifts billions of dollars of crippling economic sanctions on Iran. “It’s a major, major defeat in terms of our position in that region,” Cheney said. (Fox News)

PROTESTERS: WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ ‘HAS BLOOD ON HER HANDS’:

Constituents from Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz's highly Jewish Florida district have called for her to resign immediately for having betrayed the will of her voters. Schultz said on Sunday, 6 September, 2015 she would support the nuclear agreement negotiated by the United States and five other powers with Iran. In a statement released to The Miami Herald, Wasserman Schultz wrote: "I have subsequently come to the conclusion that the agreement promotes the national security interests of the United States and our allies and merits my vote of support." Shortly afterward, thousands of her constituents called for her "immediate resignation for having betrayed the trust of those who voted for her" and for "going against the will of the majority of her constituents." An August, 2015 Quinnipiac poll showed Florida voters oppose the pact 61 percent to 25 percent – and Schultz's district has the second highest percentage of Jews in the state. Just last week, hundreds of protesters gathered outside of her Aventura, Florida office, to urge her to vote against the Iran nuclear agreement. "If she can live with herself and sleep at night and have blood on her hands, then so be it. That's her choice," protester Racheli Refaael said. (Arutz-7)

BRITAIN: 17-YEAR-OLD BEATEN UNCONSCIOUS IN ANTISEMITIC ATTACK: Police in the British city of Manchester are appealing for witnesses to a brutal anti-Semitic attack in which a 17-year-old boy was beaten unconscious. Three other people were also hurt in the attack, which occurred Saturday night, 5 September, 2015 at Bowker Vale Metrolink tram station. The victims were pounced upon by a gang of three men, according to police, who proceeded to hurl anti-Semitic verbal abuse at them before launching a sudden, unprovoked attack. The 17-year-old victim was the worst injured, and is currently still hospitalized with a "suspected bleed to the brain," according to media sources. Three other victims aged 18, 18, and 20 were also injured in the attack. It comes amid a surge in hate crimes in London, including an near-doubling of the number of anti-Semitic crimes recorded over the 12 months up to July, 2015 compared with the previous period. "This is a particularly serious and worrying anti-Semitic assault," spokesman for the Community Security Trust (CST), a charity which combats antisemitism, told media sources. "We have offered support to the victims' families and our thoughts and sympathies are with them at this time. We have also been in close contact with Greater Manchester Police who are conducting a full investigation and we ask that any witnesses come forward." (Arutz-7)

PALESTINIAN MAN GETS THREATS FOR SAVING USA STUDENTS: Faiz Abu Hamadiyah, 51, of Hebron, says he has been receiving death threats ever since he gave shelter to five American Jewish tourists who were attacked by a Palestinian mob last week. Hamadiyah told Israel Channel 2 TV on Sunday, 6 September, 2015 that people threatened to "burn his house down, or cut off his head." "I'm not a hero; this is what every person should have done. I did it because I'm a human being," he said. "I did the right thing. We need to live here together." (Times of Israel)

NETANYAHU: ISRAEL STARTS BUILDING FENCE ALONG BORDER WITH

JORDAN: Israel began construction of a fence along its border with Jordan this week, PM Benjamin Netanyahu announced at a weekly cabinet meeting. "Today, we are starting to build a fence on our eastern border," he said Sunday 6 Sep. 2015. "In the first stage, we will build it from Timna to Eilat in order to protect the airport being built there, and we will continue the fence up to the Golan Heights, where we have already built a strong security barrier. To the extent that it is possible we will encompass Israel's borders with a security fence and barriers that will allow us to control our borders," Netanyahu said. "We will not allow Israel to be flooded with illegal migrants and terrorists." Netanyahu hinted that the fence was being built with ISIS and other Islamist groups in mind. "The combination of very cruel terror that is spreading along our borders," he said, "with work infiltrators and smugglers, as well as the loss of control in the face of a human tragedy that is taking place almost 360 degrees around us, means that we must bring back Israel's control over its borders." (Jerusalem Post/CNN)

ISRAEL DEVELOPS PALM-SIZED FLYING NUCLEAR DETECTORS: Israeli nuclear researchers have developed a micro-copter capable of tracking nuclear radiation in difficult terrain. The palm-sized drones, developed with funding from the USA Department of Energy, were invented in Israel's Negev Nuclear Research Center, better known as the Dimona nuclear facility, where foreign governments believe Israel developed and may house a nuclear arsenal. The micro-copters are essentially undetectable and can collect data on radioactivity emanating from underground sites, even in rugged terrain that can be difficult to reach on the ground or view from space. While the miniature drones were developed to track radiation levels at radioactive sites without risking the lives of human technicians, and Israeli officials say they were developed purely for defensive purposes, the applications for Western enforcement of Iran's nuclear program are clear. (Times of Israel)

USA WARNS RUSSIA AGAINST ADDITIONAL AID TO ASSAD AMID NEW VIOLENCE: Russia is providing "serious" training and logistical support to the Syrian army, Vladimir Putin confirmed over the weekend, in the first public statement of the depth of Russia's involvement in Syria's civil war. Commenting on reports that Russian combat troops have been deployed to Syria, the Russian president said discussion of direct military intervention is "so far premature," but he did not rule out such a step. Reports about Russia possibly planning to expand its military support for Syrian President Assad has prompted a warning from the USA that such actions could lead to a clash with coalition forces. The State Department issued a statement after Secretary of State John Kerry called Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to express concern over an imminent enhanced Russian military build-up" in Syria. The State Department said Kerry made it clear to Lavrov in their conversation that such actions "could further escalate the conflict, lead to greater loss of innocent life, increase refugee flows and risk confrontation" with the anti-ISIS coalition led by the USA that is carrying out airstrikes in Syria." Russia has repeatedly used its UN Security Council veto to support Assad throughout the four and a half year-long war, which is believed to have claimed some

250,000 lives. Russia has also been a long-term supplier of arms to the Syrian government. (Fox/Algemeiner) *End time alliance of nations that will come against Israel: Magog - southern portion of the former Soviet Union; Rosh - Russia; Meshech and Tubal - Turkey; Persia - Iran; Cush - Sudan; Put- Libya (possibly Algeria and Tunisia as well); Beth Togarmah - Turkey; Armenia and other Turkic-speaking peoples who spread into other countries across central Asia. Present day headlines suggest many of these players are coming together in ways that will lead to a proactive invasion force against Israel.*

HUCKABEE SAYS JAILED KENTUCKY CLERK SHOWS ‘CRIMINALIZATION OF CHRISTIANITY’: Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is scheduled to visit a Kentucky jail this week to meet with a county clerk imprisoned because she ignored repeated court orders to issue marriage licenses to gay couples. Huckabee, a Baptist pastor and Republican presidential candidate, also plans to host a rally in county clerk Kim Davis’ honor outside the Carter County Detention Center. “Having Kim Davis in federal custody removes all doubt of the criminalization of Christianity in our country,” Huckabee said. Davis’ jailing offers the many Republican presidential candidates an opportunity to appeal to the GOP’s evangelical Christian wing, which opposes same-sex marriage and casts Davis’ imprisonment as an issue of religious freedom. Not all the Republican White House hopefuls see it Huckabee’s way. Asked about Davis’ imprisonment, Republican Donald Trump noted that the Supreme Court has legalized same-sex marriage. “You have to go with it,” Trump said on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe.” “The decision has been made, and that’s the law of the land. I hate to see her being put in jail,” Trump said, later adding, “We’re a nation of laws.” (NY Post)

ISRAEL TO FACE ARMED TERROR DRONES: Israel will have to deal with armed, hostile, attack drones from Lebanon or Gaza capable of firing rockets or small missiles at Israeli targets, Tal Inbar, head of the Space Research Center in Herzliya, said last week. Both Hezbollah and Hamas have their own drone fleets. "We have seen armed Iranian drones," he said. "The most advanced of these is the Shahed-129." The Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps boasted in 2013 that the Shahed-129 can carry eight missiles, and that its range is 1,700 km., enabling it to reach Israel. "Hezbollah announced that it has this UAV," Inbar said. The missiles on board the Iranian drones appear to be antitank missiles. It would take them 30 seconds to cross from Lebanon into Israel and strike an Israeli vehicle, Inbar estimated. Detecting the hostile drone early and shooting it down, before it has the opportunity to fire, will be a key part of any effective defense approach. The Assad regime in Syria has deployed Russian drones, and Egypt has purchased China's Wing Loong medium-altitude, long-endurance drone. "We are seeing the whole area become flooded with UAVs.... Certainly, the skies are filling up with them," Inbar said. (J.Post)

IRAN GLOATS OVER WORLD POWERS’ ‘SURRENDER’ ON NUCLEAR DEAL: Iranian leaders view the nuclear deal signed by western powers as a "surrender"

to Iran, and as cementing the Islamic Republic's status as a "superpower." An analysis by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) has shed light on the sense of victory held by Iran's most senior leadership, as neighboring countries prepare for a surge in terrorism sponsored by an emboldened Tehran. Among the comments was a statement made by Iranian Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan on August 30, 2015 in which he boasted: "Today, Iran has attained such status that the superpowers have surrendered to it, because of its majesty, its steadfastness, its resistance, and its unity. Despite their great pride, the regime of the arrogant [the West, led by the USA] sat humbly behind the negotiating table and obeyed the rights of the Iranian nation," he said. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, meanwhile, published a poster hailing Iran as the region's "foremost military power." Further illustrating the Islamic Republic's aggressive stance, the "Iron Fist" in the image consists of military equipment, including missiles, jets, ships and tanks. (Arutz-7)

‘ARREST NETANYAHU’ PETITION REACHES 100,000 SIGNATURES: The number of signatures on an online petition calling for the arrest of PM Binyamin Netanyahu during his upcoming visit to the UK, on Saturday, 5 September, 2015 passed the 100,000 mark. The petition, uploaded to the UK Government's official website, calls for Netanyahu to be arrested under international law for "war crimes" during last summer's Israel-Gaza war. It notes that Netanyahu is due to visit London in September and adds, "Under international law he should be arrested for war crimes upon arrival in the UK for the massacre of civilians in 2014." The 100,000 signature mark is significant, as any e-petition with 100,000 signatures should be considered for debate in the House of Commons. However, due to the complexity of the issue and the relations between Israel and Britain, the petition is not likely to be discussed by parliament. (Arutz-7)

ELDERLY JEWISH COUPLE BRUTALLY ATTACKED IN HOLLAND: Samuel (87) and Diana (86) Blug, two elderly Holocaust survivors, fell victim to a vicious and violent antisemitic attack at their home in Holland last month. According to a media report on Sunday, 6 September, 2015 the couple were only able to come forward now and recount what happened to them. The Blugs say two men knocked on the door to their apartment, claiming to be the police and demanding entrance. As soon as Samuel opened the door, two men dressed in black barged into the apartment and started severely beating the couple. The assailants threw the couple on the floor, kicked them repeatedly and shouted: "Dirty Jews - from now on your property is ours." After tying up the badly injured couple, the thieves ripped Diana's jewelry off her body. At gunpoint, they forced the couple to tell them where the rest of the valuables in the apartment were located. Samuel was blinded in the assault and suffered a broken femur. Both he and Diana, who were living independently before the attack, are now confined to wheelchairs at a rehabilitation center in Amsterdam. "They have destroyed our lives," Samuel said in tears to reporters. "I have severe pain. I'm completely broken inside," Diana added. Emmanuel, the couple's son, has offered a prize of ten thousand euros to anyone who can provide

information that will lead to the arrest of the assailants, and Dutch police are seriously investigating the incident. (INN)

NETANYAHU: ISRAEL NOT INDIFFERENT, BUT CAN'T ABSORB SYRIAN OR AFRICAN REFUGEES: While Israel is not indifferent to the human tragedy of refugees from Syria and Africa, it is a small country that cannot throw its doors open to them, PM Netanyahu said Sunday, 6 September, 2015. Netanyahu's comments, made at the opening of Sunday's weekly cabinet meeting, came a day after opposition leader Isaac Herzog (Zionist Union) called on the government to absorb refugees from Syria. "We have conscientiously treated thousands of wounded from the fighting in Syria, and we have helped them rebuild their lives," Netanyahu said. "But Israel is a very small country, with neither demographic or geographic depth, and therefore we must control our borders." Netanyahu said it must secure the borders both against illegal immigrants looking for work, as well as from terrorists. (Jerusalem Post)



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