

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update October 6, 2017 (16th of Tishrei, 5778)

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A gold menorah with seven branches and a silver metal bracelet with a Star of David and Hebrew text.

NETANYAHU EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO AMERICAN PEOPLE AFTER VEGAS CARNAGE: Israeli officials expressed their solidarity on Monday 2 Oct. 2017 with the families of the victims and those who were injured in America's deadliest shooting to date, which took place on the previous night in Las Vegas and resulted in the death of some 55 people. The Tel Aviv-Yafo municipality building wore the red, blue and white colors of the American flag Monday evening, lighting up in a moving gesture of support to Israel's allies affected by the devastation. PM Netanyahu, whose country is no stranger to such acts of brutality, said that "on this awful day, the people in Israel stand shoulder to shoulder with the American people. Our hearts are with the families of the victims and we wish full recovery to the injured. We grieve with you." Israeli President Reuven Rivlin echoed the premier's sentiment in a letter he addressed to USA President Donald Trump, writing that "the people of Israel join me in sending our deepest sympathy to you, to the participants in the festival, the people of Las Vegas and to all the people of the United States following this shocking attack which took the lives of so many innocent people and injured so very many more. We stand with you as you mourn the terrible loss of life and injury following this senseless attack on people who had merely gathered together to listen to music," the president added, noting that the mass shooting targeted a lively outdoor country music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada. Rivlin also wrote to the USA president that the people of Israel wished to "convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and send our best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to the many injured. (J.Post)

MOSSAD HEAD DECLARES: IRAN IS OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE: Iran is the primary target of the Mossad's actions, which number in the hundreds and thousands each year, Mossad head Yossi Cohen said on Monday 2 Oct. 2017. Cohen said the spy organization works within the

framework of a multi-year plan that focuses on the top national, security and diplomatic priorities. “The objectives of the Mossad are clear: Iran continues to hold onto its vision of attaining significant nuclear capabilities, so that it will attain nuclear military capabilities,” he said. Cohen added that the Islamic Republic continues to aggressively direct military and operational forces in the Middle East closer to Israel’s borders than ever before, both in Syria and in Lebanon; continues to support Hezbollah and, increasingly of late, Hamas; and continues to transfer advanced weaponry to terrorist organizations in the region.

In addition to Iran, he said, Islamic State “will continue to challenge us every day in its efforts to harm us and, no less important, our friends around the world.” Cohen said that the Mossad “undertakes hundreds and thousands of actions every year, some of which are complex and bold, in the heart of enemy states – the target countries.” He added that the organization has a “unique ability to work in the very heart of the target, to penetrate into the most guarded and dangerous places, and to return with a decisive achievement.” He called the organization a “link in the chain of the lives of our people – an ancient people that strives to be an example for itself and to the world.” Netanyahu, who called the organization a “synchronized fist,” said he saluted its “initiative, daring and professionalism – both in planning and in execution.”(J.Post)

PENTAGON GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO INSTALL ISRAELI DEFENSE SYSTEM ON USA TANKS: The USA Army has approved the installation of Israel’s Trophy active-protection system on a number of its M1A2 Abrams tanks, making it the first army aside from the IDF to use the system. The Pentagon said days ago the decision was made following “an urgent material” request. Designed to detect and neutralize incoming projectiles, the Trophy system has four radar antennae and fire-control radars to track incoming threats such as anti-tank guided missiles and rocket-propelled grenades. Once a projectile is detected, Trophy fires a shotgun-type blast to neutralize the threat. Developed by Israel’s Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aircraft Industries’ Elta Group, it is the only fully operational and combat-proven APS in the world. With its troops operating in theaters such as Syria and Iraq, the USA has understood that ground forces and armored vehicles are sitting ducks without active protection systems due to the proliferation of antitank weaponry in the hands of both state militaries and insurgent groups (J.Post)

ISRAEL KNESSET MEMBER OBSERVING CATALAN ELECTION CAUGHT IN CROSSFIRE: Zionist Union MK Ksenia Svetlova found herself in the middle of police violence against voters during the Catalan independence referendum on 1 Oct. 2017 in Barcelona. She was invited by the Catalan government to be an impartial observer. “We saw a group of people who weren’t being allowed to vote. So they sat in the middle of the road and sang the Catalan anthem and other patriotic songs,” she said. “Without any warning or provocation, the police started shooting rubber bullets. I saw people, young and old, being beaten with clubs. I entered a building and kept out of the way so I wouldn’t be beaten.” The MK said she did not anticipate the violence. Many Spaniards, not just Catalans, are in shock at the National Police’s behavior. No one expected it to be so brutal,” she said, adding that “people feel like the democratic process has been harmed.” Svetlova said she found it jarring that this took place in a EU country: “We’re talking about Europe, European values of democracy and freedom of expression. How do these things go together?” The Zionist Union MK expressed concerns that “the processes Europe is undergoing will have ramifications for us in Israel” and said she spoke to Spanish parliamentarians, accusing them of hypocrisy when it comes to Israel. Catalonia has reportedly overwhelmingly voted for independence from Spain, with over 90% of the votes counted saying “yes”, the regional government has said. (J. Post)

3,000 KILLED IN SYRIA IN SEPTEMBER: The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights on 1 Oct. 2017 says Sept. 2017 was the deadliest month this year in the country's civil war. Syria's civil war killed at least 3,000 people, including 955 civilians last month. The 955 civilians killed in September included 207 children, said the Britain-based Observatory, which relies on a wide network of sources inside Syria for its information. The number of people killed in last month was higher because of increased fighting and "intensified air raids of the international coalition and Russia against terrorist bastions in the north and east of Syria, but also due to increased Russian and regime strikes on rebel-held areas," said the monitor's head Rami Abdel Rahman. Syria's conflict has killed more than 330,000 people since 2011. (Arutz-7)

ISRAEL SAVES KURDISH CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE DESPITE ERDOGAN CRITICISM: To date, Israel's regional cooperation ministry has funded the life-saving treatment of about 500 children with heart diseases from Iraq, the Palestinian Authority, Syria and Jordan. Following the criticism by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan over Israel's support for the Kurds, Regional Cooperation Minister Tzachi Hanegbi visited Kurdish children who were receiving medical treatment here on Monday 2 Oct. 2017. During a visit to Holon's Wolfson Medical Center, the base for the Save a Child's Heart program that performs congenital heart surgery on needy children from abroad, Hanegbi said: "Israel is the greatest defender of human rights." The minister was accompanied by ministry director-general Dr. Joseph Dreznin and leading Save A Child's Heart benefactor Sylvan Adams. Hanegbi and Dreznin toured the pediatric wards and met with children from Afghanistan, Togo, Zanzibar and the Palestinian Authority as well as from Kurdistan in Iraq. Hanegbi said he was impressed by the construction work at the children's hospital and the work being carried out by the International Center for Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery at Wolfson. Over the years, doctors and nurses volunteering for Save a Child's Heart have treated more than 4,400 children from Africa, South America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. They have also trained more than 100 medical workers in those countries, allowing them to save many other children. (J.Post)

ISRAEL PARALYMPIC ROWER WINS SILVER AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: Israeli Moran Samuel, 35, won a silver medal at the World Rowing Championships in Sarasota, Florida, on 1 Oct. 2017 in the women's Paralympic 2,000-meter race. Samuel had been a member of Israel's national basketball team until 2006, when she suffered a rare spinal stroke and became paralyzed in her lower body. (Times of Israel)

SUCCOT 2017: Israelis celebrate Succoth this week and are preparing for the most joyous festival on the Jewish calendar. The holiday begins this year at sunset Wed. 4 Oct. 2017, and will continue through dusk Thur. 12 Oct. Throughout Israel, families have built sukkahs (huts) with a roof covering of palm branches. Children have made and hung decorations inside these temporary dwelling places. For seven days and nights, families and guests will eat their meals in the sukkah and otherwise regard it as their home. This is to commemorate the forty years traversed in the Sinai Desert prior to entering the Holy Land during which Moses and the children of Israel dwelled in tents. Staff members at Vision for Israel & The Joseph Storehouse send warmest Succoth greeting to our faithful friends, intercessors, and all who love Israel around the world. Pray for the well-being of the nation during these holiday times; safety for those who dwell here and for those who are visiting in vast numbers from around the world. Also, please begin to intercede for abundant precipitation to be poured out upon Israel as the rainy season approaches. Years of drought have made ever decreasing water source a serious problem in the nation.

ISRAEL'S TRADE WITH RUSSIA LEAPS BY 25%: Trade between Israel and Russia has grown this year by 25%, officials from both countries revealed. The first six months of 2017 saw increased trade between the nations of about \$380 million over the corresponding period last year. Ze'ev Elkin, the cabinet minister responsible for environmental protection and issues connected with Jerusalem said, "There is still great potential for increase in trade and there is much work ahead of us," Elkin said in reference to ongoing talks since 2013 on signing a free trade agreement with Russia. Temur Ben Yehuda, chairman of the Israeli Russian Business Council said, "We are not only conducting dialogue on increasing trade, we are also signing major agreements between Israel and Russian firms, including Watergen, Assuta and many others," he said. The increase comes amid tightening cooperation between Israel and Russia on security issues connected with Syria, where the Russian government is engaged in propping up the beleaguered regime of the country's president, Bashar Assad. Russia's relations with Israel, which has remained neutral on the Syrian issue, have noticeably improved, with PM Netanyahu traveling to Moscow at least five times in one year. (Times of Israel)

ISRAELIS TRAINING PALESTINIAN AVOCADO FARMERS: In an effort to boost trade in the Palestinian territories, an Israeli agricultural institute has been training Palestinian farmers to improve their harvest of the internationally popular avocado pear. Israel's Foreign Ministry has described the collaboration between the Galilee International Management Institute (GIMI) and a group of Palestinian agricultural engineers as a "unique cooperation" that promotes coexistence. GIMI has been working with Arabs for 30 years. Indeed, during heightened tensions over the Temple Mount this summer, GIMI was running a course for Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli olive oil producers as well as starting a tele-course for computer engineers in Gaza. Among other such projects, GIMI has been training Palestinians in growing avocados for export. Israel is already internationally renowned for its export of avocados - a healthy, tasty fruit that has been described as "green gold." Because the fruit is in great demand, the GIMI institute thought it would be especially beneficial for Palestinians to join in its farming and trade. The training course was was created for Palestinian agricultural extension officers who would then train local farmers. (Kehila News)

TERRORIST ATTACK IN MARSEILLES: Two women were stabbed to death and their assailant shot dead by soldiers in the southern port city of Marseilles on Sunday 1 Oct. 2017 in what police sources described as a "likely terrorist acts." Three police sources said the suspect had shouted "Allahu Akbar" as he carried out his attack at Marseille train station. Police cordoned off the area. France has been in a state of emergency following a spate of attacks by Islamist terrorists over the last two years, including attacks in Paris in Nov. 2015, which killed 130 people. Other countries, including Britain, Germany and Belgium, have also suffered attacks using knives, guns, explosives and vehicles. A witness told Reuters she saw a man take out a knife from his sleeve and then stab a young girl and then a second woman, and that he was shouting "Allahu Akbar." French media reported that one of the women had her throat slit, while the second woman was stabbed in the stomach. The assailant was shot dead by soldiers who were patrolling the station. (Reuters)

CANADIAN POLICE INVESTIGATE OFFICER ATTACK: Canadian police say an attack on an officer outside a football game and a high-speed chase of a U-Haul that left four people injured are being investigated as acts of terrorism. Edmonton Police Chief Rod Knecht said Sunday 1 Oct. 2017 that officers have one person in custody and they think he acted alone. The chaos began outside a Canadian Football League game when police say a vehicle rammed a traffic control barricade and sent an officer flying. Knecht said the driver then got out and attacked the officer with knife. A few hours later, a U-Haul van was stopped at an impaired driving check stop and the driver sped off with police in

pursuit. Police say the U-Haul hit and injured four pedestrians before it rolled and the suspect was arrested. (Fox)

HEZBOLLAH TERRORIST GROUP SAYS ISRAEL PUSHING REGION TO WAR: Lebanon's Hezbollah accused Israeli PM Netanyahu's government on Sunday 1 Oct. 2017 of pushing the region to war in Syria, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, and said nowhere in Israel would be safe if such a conflict were to erupt. Tensions have risen this year between Iran-backed Hezbollah and its arch enemy Israel, which last fought a major conflict in 2006. Israel has said it would use all its strength from the start in any new war with Hezbollah. In a speech to followers, Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said the Israeli government did not have "a correct assessment of where this war will lead if they ignite it, and did not know how it would end." In June 2017 Nasrallah said a future Israeli war against Syria or Lebanon could draw thousands of fighters from countries such as Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen and Pakistan. Nasrallah called on Jews who immigrated to Israel to "leave and return to the countries from which they came so they are not fuel for any war waged by your foolish government." He said the Jews of Israel "will have no secure place in occupied Palestine." (Reuters)

AUSTRIA'S 'BURKA BAN' COMES INTO FORCE, PROHIBITING FACE VEILS IN PUBLIC PLACES: A ban on full-face coverings, which includes Muslim veils such as those worn in burkas, came into force in Austria on 1 Oct 2017. The new law states that faces must be visible from hairline to chin in public places Austrian police are allowed to use force to make people show their face and can impose fines of €150 (£132). Austria's ban comes after France and Belgium introduced a similar bans in 2011 and with the Dutch parliament also debating a similar law. Muslim groups have condemned the law saying only a minority of women in the country wear full-face veils. However, there has been strong support for the law reflecting growing anti-immigrant sentiment in the predominantly Catholic country. "It's not right that those living here don't show their faces," said one source, who expressed support for the ban in a straw poll on the streets of Vienna. Parties campaigning on an anti-immigration message are on course win elections on 15 Oct 2017. (UK Telegraph)

IRANIAN CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE NEW BELIEVERS IN MASS BAPTISM: Being a Christian in Iran is very dangerous. Christian converts face persecution in many forms, but that hasn't stopped 20 Iranian Christians from recently getting baptized. Many in the group of Christians converted to Christianity years ago, but have had to wait to be baptized due to the danger it places them in. For that reason, neither the identities of the converts nor the exact location of the baptism has been revealed. The group of converts reportedly got together to make a pilgrimage to the baptism site which was outside of Iran. "I've been waiting for this moment for nearly nine years," said one convert. "This was my wish before I die," said another. The mass baptism was a joyous event for these fervent believers who ranged in age from teenagers to the elderly. Nearly all of them have faced consequences and persecution for deciding to put their faith in Christ, but they have persevered. And although Iran is one of the most dangerous places for Christians and government authorities fear the spread of the Gospel, it is also one of the places where Christianity is growing by leaps and bounds. There are many reports of Muslims encountering Yeshua through dreams and visions. "We have been praying for years that Iranian people believe in Yeshua and get baptized. Now, this dream is coming true," said a Christian convert whose brother was murdered for his faith in 1994. (CBN)

'THE SETTLEMENTS ARE PART OF ISRAEL': David Friedman, the USA Ambassador to Israel, said on 28 Sept. 2017 that Jewish communities in Judea & Samaria are part of Israel. "I think that was always the expectation when Resolution 242 was adopted in 1967. The idea was that Israel would be

entitled to secure borders,” said Friedman. “The existing borders, the 1967 borders, were viewed by everybody as not secure, so Israel would retain a meaningful portion of Judea & Samaria, and it would return that which it didn’t need for peace and security. So there was always supposed to be some notion of expansion into Judea & Samaria, but not necessarily expansion into the entire area. And I think that’s exactly what Israel has done. I mean, they’re only occupying two percent of Judea & Samaria” he pointed out. Friedman also said that the Jewish communities in Judea & Samaria have an “important nationalistic, historical, religious significance” and added, “I think the settlers view themselves as Israelis and Israel views the settlers as Israelis.” The ambassador said that a Trump administration-proposed peace plan likely will go public in months. “But we’re not holding ourselves to any hard deadline. We’ll try to get it done right, not done fast,” he said. (Arutz-7)

NETANYAHU: WE WILL NEVER UPROOT JEWISH OR ARAB COMMUNITIES: "There will be no more uprooting of settlements in the Land of Israel," PM Benjamin Netanyahu said last week at a national ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the settlement movement. "It is not just a question of the connection to the homeland, of course that is correct, but first of all, it is not the way to make peace. We will not uproot Jews, and not Arabs." The fall of four Gush Etzion communities during the War of Independence and the subsequent return of Israelis to that region 19 years later has been the symbolic heart of the settlement movement. "Any territory that falls into the hands of radical Islam becomes a base of destruction, of violence and of death," Netanyahu said. "Therefore we will not abandon our national home to that danger." (J. Post)

NEW UNRWA TEXTBOOKS FOR PALESTINIANS DEMONIZE ISRAEL AND JEWS: New schoolbooks used in UNRWA schools in Gaza and in Judea & Samaria display extreme anti-Israel and anti-Jewish sentiments, according to a study by Dr. Aaron Groiss released last week. According to the Palestinian schoolbooks, Jews have no rights whatsoever in the region but only "greedy ambitions." The books say that Jews have no holy places there - the Western Wall in Jerusalem, the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron, and Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem are all presented as Muslim holy places threatened by Jews. The names "Israel" and "Tel Aviv" do not appear on maps at UNRWA schools. Peace is not advocated in UNRWA schools. Instead, the schoolbooks promote a violent struggle of liberation against Israel. A 2017 text describes a firebomb attack on an Israeli civilian bus as a "barbecue party." The researcher concludes that UNRWA is contributing to perpetuating the conflict. (J. Post) *The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), with its \$1.3 billion budget (30% of which comes from USA taxpayers), actually perpetuates the refugee problem it was created to solve, while promoting Palestinian rejectionism and Jew hatred. The original 700,000 Palestinians leaving Israel have now been magically transformed into 5.5 million "refugees" registered with UNRWA, about half of all the Palestinians living in the world today. The "temporary" UN agency has developed into a bloated bureaucracy with a staff of 30,000, almost all of who are Palestinians (many are activists of Hamas, the Islamist terrorist group). Less than 5% of UNRWA's clients ever lived in Israel, but the agency's regulations state that all descendants of the original displaced persons shall retain their refugee rights in perpetuity.*

NORWEGIANS AND EUROPE NOW 'EXPERIENCING THE SAME FEAR AS ISRAELIS' SAYS MINISTRY: “We see what is happening in Sweden, in Britain, and in France,” said Norway’s Minister of Immigration and Integration Sylvi Listhaug in a media interview. “We are experiencing now the fear that you have experienced for decades.” One of the most popular politicians in Norway and member of the conservative-liberal Progress Party, Listhaug added that the nations of Europe “and

their citizens need to understand the situation in Israel better, because of the terror attacks in Israel.” Norwegian conservative historian, Hanne Nabintu Herland, called her country “the most anti-Semitic in the West,” but now it seems that the people of Norway are changing their views. In concern for the preservation of Norwegian culture in the face of a potential flood of immigrants, Herland often calls on her fellow country-men to take their country back. “The Progress party has always been a supporter of Israel’s need to protect themselves in a region where you are the only democracy,” continued Minister Listhaug. “The conservative minister reduced the number of immigrants arriving to the shores of Norway from 30,000 in 2015 to 1,000 in 2017. Those who come are expected to adapt to the culture and norms of Norwegians: a people who drink alcohol, eat pork, and do not believe in veils. (Ynet)

USA HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES ANTI-HEZBOLLAH SANCTIONS: The USA House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee passed two bills on 28 Sept. 2017 that tightens sanctions on the Hezbollah terror organization. Both bills are sponsored by Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Democrat Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY). The first bill targets any foreign person that provides support to any number of key Hezbollah financial, security, foreign relations, and media institutions. “Congress must close any possible loophole that could allow foreign funding of Hezbollah. Acting swiftly - and in a bipartisan manner - will show Hezbollah’s foreign sponsors that the United States will not sit by while Hezbollah grows stronger,” said Engel. The second bill slaps sanctions on anyone who used human shields in the 2006 Israel-Lebanon War or afterward and explicitly names senior Hezbollah members. The bill targets “foreign persons that are responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights by reason of the use by Hezbollah of civilians as human shields, and for other purposes.” The Iranian-backed Hezbollah has been documented making wide use of human shields during the 2006 war against Israel. (Arutz-7)

DISABLED ISRAELIS TO RECEIVE HIGHER PENSIONS FOLLOWING BREAKTHROUGH AGREEMENT: There has been a historical breakthrough in Israeli policy regarding the disabled community: after 12 hours of intense negotiations, a compromise has been reached regarding disability pensions. The compromise was reached between Histadrut (General Organization of Workers in Israel) chairperson Avi Nissenkorn, Coalition chairman MK David Bitan, Meretz MK Ilan Gilon, and Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon. It details an increase of the existing disability pension in proportion to the severity of the disability, with those with the most debilitating disabilities to receive 4,500 NIS per month. Disabled people will not lose their pensions if they earn more than 2,800 NIS as they do today. Instead, the sum will be increased to 4,300 NIS, enabling disabled people who can work to earn money while still receiving state support. 300 million NIS will be allocated to pensions for the elderly, as today the elderly disabled must decide which pensions they want to get - the disability pension or the old-age pension. This extra funding will put an end to this situation.

Complaints from groups that represent disabled Israelis were manifested in road blocks and massive demonstrations in an effort to get attention from the government to address their plights. Some of the activists in the group have announced their desire to hit the roads one last time, but this time with flowers to reward the Israeli people for being so supportive of them and their struggle. (J.Post)

ISRAELI TENNIS PLAYER QUILTS MATCH BECAUSE OF YOM KIPPUR: Israeli tennis player Dudi Sela on Friday 29 Sept. 2017, left a match due to Yom Kippur. Sela gave up midway during his quarter-final clash against Alexander Dolgoplov at the ATP Tour Shenzhen Open when he realized that it was almost sunset and the Yom Kippur fast was about to begin. The 32-year-old, who’s

ranked 77 in the world, lost the first set 6-3, before winning the second 7-5, thereby ensuring a third and deciding set. Eight minutes into the third set, however, Sela informed the umpire of his decision to retire from the match and left the court. With his decision, Sela forfeited the chance of reaching the semi-finals. The match was originally to take place on Yom Kippur itself, but pressure from officials in the Israel Tennis Association as well as Culture and Sport Minister Miri Regev resulted in a change in the time so that the match started before the fast. (Arutz-7)



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Sharing Yeshua in unity with both Jew and Gentile