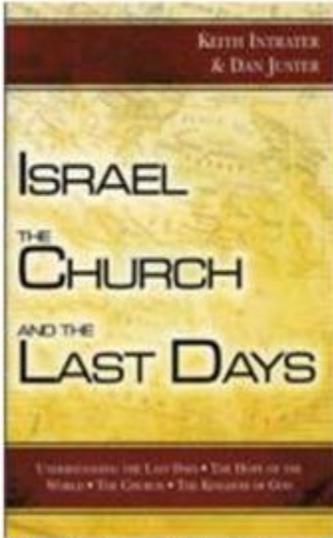


Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update November 3, 2017 (14th of Cheshvan, 5778)

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VFI STAFF MEMBERS SEND THEIR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES TO THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK: Israel grieves with the people of New York in the wake of the ISIS-inspired terrorist attack on Tuesday 31 Oct. 2017. The attack killed eight people and injured at least 12 more. We, at VFI, and others across the nation, are praying for the swift and complete recovery of the injured and for the comforting of those who have lost loved ones in this latest act of terrorism. We ask all of our readers and intercessors to please join our prayers for the people of New York.

12 TERRORIST KILLED IN DESTRUCTION OF TUNNELS ALONG GAZA BORDER: At least twelve terrorists were killed when the IDF Southern Command destroyed a network of terror tunnels found near Khan Yunis in southern Gaza on Monday 30 Oct. 2017. A senior figure in the Islamic Jihad terrorist organization was killed in the blast. The Hamas terrorist organization, which rules the Gaza Strip, said two of those killed were members of Hamas' armed wing. IDF spokesman Jonathan Conricus said the tunnel network in question crossed the border from Gaza into pre-1967 Israel. The passageways were detonated from within Israel, close to the security fence. The IDF's actions were said to be "in light of this grave and unacceptable violation of Israeli sovereignty." According to Brigadier General Ronen Manelis, the tunnel network extended deep into pre-1967 sovereign Israeli territory, and thus posed a serious security threat to the nation. The IDF responded by setting off an explosion in the tunnels as close as possible to the Gaza border, approximately 0.6 miles from the town of Kissufim. According to the IDF, additional units will be sent to the area as a precaution against further security incidents. (Arutz-7)

FATAH CONDEMNS ISRAEL FOR DESTROYING TERROR TUNNELS: The Fatah movement, headed by Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas, on 30 Oct. 2017, condemned what it called "the Israeli crime directed against our people in Gaza, which resulted in the deaths of twelve terrorists and the wounding of several others." The statement was referring to the IDF destroying terror tunnels leading from Gaza into Israel, during which terrorists were killed, including two senior member of the Islamic Jihad. Fatah claimed that the destruction of the tunnel was "part of the policy of fleeing, adopted by successive Israeli governments, in an attempt to evade the corruption cases at the expense of the blood of the Palestinian people." Hamas' military wing also condemned Israel and said the destruction of the tunnel was "an attempt by the enemy to impose new rules by committing crimes and attacks against our land, our jihad fighters and our people." The IDF responded to the terrorist groups in Gaza on Monday evening, saying it did not set out to kill terrorists. IDF spokesperson Brigadier General Ronen Manelis stated, "The operation in which a terrorist tunnel network was bombed this afternoon was carried out in Israeli territory. The intention was for the explosion to knock the tunnels out of commission." (Arutz-7)

NETANYAHU HAILS 'BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGY' IN DISCOVERY OF HAMAS ATTACK TUNNELS: PM Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman on 30 Oct. 2017, hailed the IDF for destroying an attack tunnel network from the Gaza Strip discovered near a kibbutz inside Israeli territory. Israel's two leaders attributed the discovery to Israel's new "breakthrough technology." In remarks at the weekly Likud faction meeting, the prime minister said the long-rumored advanced technology to locate the attack tunnels had been utilized in the recent operation. "I told you many times before that we are developing breakthrough technology to deal with the tunnel threat," said Netanyahu. "We are implementing it. Today, we located a tunnel network and we destroyed it." Also hailing the "breakthrough technology," Liberman warned that Israel would not tolerate incursions on its territory, while stressing that Israel was not seeking renewed conflict with Gazan terror groups. "I think the message is clear to all: We will not tolerate a breach of our sovereignty," said Liberman. (Times of Israel)

UNRWA DEMANDS END TO TUNNEL BUILDING UNDER ITS SCHOOLS: Palestinians must stop building tunnels under Gaza schools, UNRWA said last weekend as it made public the presence of a new tunnel under one of its schools. "The presence of a tunnel underneath an UNRWA installation, which enjoys inviolability under international law, is unacceptable. It places children and agency staff at risk," the UN agency said. Israel Foreign Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon said, "We are glad that UNRWA noticed what we have been telling them for years." Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon said, "This is what Hamas rule looks like and this is more proof of the double war crime committed as terror tunnels are built to attack Israelis, while using the children of Gaza as human shields." (J.Post)

HAMAS REJOINS IRAN'S TERRORIST AXIS: Hamas is deepening its ties with Iran and its radical Shiite axis — and Iranian cash is once again expected to fund Gaza's war preparations and arms build-up program. Before the 2011 outbreak of the war in Syria, Sunni Hamas and Shiite Iran were united by their goal to destroy Israel, and Iran helped arm and fund Hamas' terrorist army in Gaza. But the two had a falling out when they found themselves on opposite sides of the Syria war. Now the Iranians have welcomed Hamas back to the fold and said that Hamas will get all of the help that it needs to prepare for future war against Israel. The Islamic Republic will grant Hamas "all assistance that it requests," a senior Iranian official told the Al Mayadin TV network. "Relations with Iran are

excellent and Iran is the largest supporter of the Hamas armed wing Izz Al-Din Kassam Brigades with money and arms,” said Hamas’ chief in Gaza, Yehya al-Sinwar. “The relationship to day is developing and returning to what it was in the old days,” Sinwar said. “This will be reflected in the resistance against Israel and in the agenda to achieve the liberation,” he said. “Liberation” is a reference to Hamas’ ideological long-term commitment to destroy Israel and replace it with a Palestinian-Islamist state. (Algemeiner)

HUNDREDS DEAD AS NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR BASE COLLAPSES: An underground North Korean military facility used for nuclear tests collapsed last month, Pyongyang revealed Tues. 31 Oct. 2017. The collapse occurred at the Punggye-ri underground nuclear facility, 50 miles from the Chinese border. According to a North Korean official, the cave in occurred during the construction of an underground tunnel. Recent thermonuclear weapons tests at the site are believed to be responsible for the collapse. Roughly 100 people were trapped in the initial collapse, with 100 more lost during failed rescue attempts. Last month, just after N. Korea confirmed it had tested a hydrogen bomb, Chinese scientists warned that the Punggye-ri facility was at risk. Researchers claimed that an explosion at the facility could spread dangerous radiation across the entire hemisphere. “China cannot sit and wait until the site implodes. Our instruments can detect nuclear fallout when it arrives, but it will be too late by then. "(INN)

USA VOWS TO HELP MIDEAST CHRISTIANS: Lobbyists for Christians in the Middle East say that they’re used to getting a cold shoulder from Washington. But Vice President Mike Pence recently told those gathered in Washington for the In Defense of Christians (IDC) summit that things were changing. Protecting Middle East Christians will be a priority for the Trump administration, Pence said. “We will not rest until we hunt down ISIS and destroy it at its source, so that it can no longer threaten our people or anyone who calls the Middle East home,” he added. Pence said the USA would not ignore the pleas of genocide victims, promising that USAID would take direct charge of providing aid to Christians and other religious minorities. The IDC lobbied for years to get USAID to distribute aid instead of the UN, which it and other groups believe has performed poorly. Members of Congress from both parties likewise pledged overarching support for Mideast Christians at Capitol Hill sessions. Throughout the IDC conference, speakers complained about the West’s indifference to the plight of Christian minorities in the Middle East. (Algemeiner)

THOUSANDS OF MIGRATING PELICANS GET FREE LUNCH IN ISRAEL: A visit from tens of thousands of migrating pelicans may be a gift for bird-watchers, but for Israeli fish farmers it can be costly. In response, Israeli authorities have taken to feeding the birds to help preserve the farms’ stocks. Members of staff at the reservoir in Mishmar Hasharon feed the pelicans with six tons of fish three to four times a week, during the three months that the pelicans are flying over Israel, in a project funded by the Israeli Agriculture Ministry. Estimates of the number of birds that pass over Israel each year range from 75,000 to over 100,000. They migrate from southern Europe to spend the winters in central Africa. “They eat here and in the north, and then they have enough food to continue to the south of Sudan.” (Reuters)

JEWISH LEADERS WELCOME SANCTIONS ON IRAN, HEZBOLLAH: Stephen M. Greenberg, Chairman and Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, on Friday 27 Oct. 2017, praised the USA House of Representatives for approving new sanctions on Hezbollah and Iran. Last week the House approved new sanctions on the Hezbollah terrorist group, which is one of Iran's terrorist proxies in the Middle

East. Sanctions against Iran for its ballistic missile development and support for Hezbollah were approved a day later. “We welcome the overwhelming bipartisan majorities in the USA House of Representatives supporting adoption of a package of legislation expanding and strengthening sanctions against Iran for its ongoing development of ballistic missile capabilities and against Iran’s terrorist proxy Hezbollah for its increasingly threatening and deadly activities on Israel’s northern border,” said Greenberg and Hoenlein.

“The legislation also creates a path for America’s allies and partners to join the effort to curtail Iran’s quest to dominate the region through the use of sophisticated conventional weapons systems and continued financial, technical and material support for Hezbollah and other terrorist groups,” they said. “The Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act is an important step toward ending Iran’s ability to fund the development of ballistic missiles designed to carry nuclear armed war heads. The two bills addressing the terrorist activities of Hezbollah and the resolution urging the EU to implement sanctions against terrorists affiliated with Hezbollah and to designate Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization, were adopted by voice vote. The new sanctions, they pointed out, “will equip the Trump administration with more effective measures to thwart Iran’s hegemonic ambitions in the Middle East and new tools to garner support from USA allies and partners in the effort to restore stability to the region.” (Arutz-7)

WISCONSIN BECOMES LATEST STATE TO PASS ANTI-BOYCOTT ISRAELI LAW:

Governor Scott Walker issued an executive order on Friday 27 Oct. 2017 barring state agencies from engaging in business with entities that discriminate against the Jewish state. The Wisconsin governor's executive order came ahead of his departure for Israel on that same day with a 15-member trade group, running until 2 November 2017. “We stand firmly against discrimination in any form and we wholly support our friends in Israel,” said Walker, adding “I look forward to leading a trade delegation to Israel to foster new trade partnerships between Wisconsin and Israeli businesses.” Wisconsin becomes the 24th USA state to pass either an executive order or state law outlawing BDS activity targeting Israel. According to Walker's statement, Israel-Wisconsin trade relations are flourishing, with "Wisconsin exporting over \$80 million annually to Israel and importing over \$200 million annually from Israel." (J.Post)

CORBYN TO SKIP BALFOUR CENTENNIAL DINNER WITH NETANYAHU:

UK Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn has declined to attend a dinner in London this week with PM Benjamin Netanyahu celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, which pledged Britain’s support for a Jewish national home. Although no reason was given for Corbyn’s decision to skip the event, the Labour chief has long been a staunch Israel critic and has been dogged by accusations of tolerating anti-Semitism in his party’s ranks. While declining to comment on Corbyn’s decision specifically, Israel’s ambassador to the UK Mark Regev said “Those who oppose the Balfour Declaration are exposing themselves for the extremists they are.” He also said a “vocal minority” of students and professors in the UK continue to oppose Israel’s existence 70 years after the country was founded, while adding that “Britain was on the right side of history” in its support for a Jewish state. (Times of Israel)

‘BE PATIENT, JEWS COME LAST’:

A Jewish schoolgirl from the north London neighborhood of Stamford Hill neighborhood went to receive her package from a store providing internet mail services but was shocked by the racist slur she received from the salesperson. The girl reported that the salesperson stopped providing service for her while dealing with her order and started to address another customer. When she asked to receive her package, she was told: "Be patient, Jews come last."

The girl, who was extremely insulted, informed the Hashomrim organization who reported the matter to local police. Police referred the incident to organizations working in England against anti-Semitism. (Arutz-7)

UAE APOLOGIZES TO ISRAEL FOR JUDO HANDSHAKE SNUB: The United Arab Emirates' top judo official apologized to his Israeli counterpart last weekend after a tournament in Abu Dhabi saw Israeli athletes repeatedly snubbed by their hosts because of their nationality. Mohammad Bin Thaloub Al-Darei, president of the UAE's Judo Federation, and Aref Al-Awani, another senior Emirates sports official, apologized to Israeli Judo Association head Moshe Ponte over the fact that an athlete from the UAE refused to shake hands with an Israeli judoka after a match during the several-day tournament. They also congratulated the Israel team for their success in the tournaments. IJF president Marius Vizer called the move a "gesture of courage." On Friday 27 Oct. 2017 the UAE's Rashad Almashjari refused to shake hands after losing to Israeli Tohar Butbul in the first round of the men's lightweight (66-73 kg) category. Butbul went on to win bronze, one of several medals won by Israelis at the Abu Dhabi Grand Slam judo tournament. The group reportedly agreed that Israeli symbols would be permitted at the event next year, but there was no confirmation. Vizer only expressed hopes that "in the near future we can achieve the best condition of participation for the Israel teams." (Koenig)

SAUDI PROMISE OF 'MODERATE ISLAM' SHIFTS POWER: The man who may soon be king of Saudi Arabia is charting a new, more modern course for a country so conservative that for decades there were no concerts or film screenings and women who attempted to drive were arrested. Since coming to power with the support of his father, the king, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has pushed forth changes that could usher in a new era for one of the United States' most important allies and swing the kingdom away from decades of ultraconservative dogma and restrictions. He's introduced musical concerts and movies again and is seen as the force behind the king's decision to grant women the right to drive as of next year. Prince Mohammed's agenda is upending the ruling Al Saud's longstanding alliance with the kingdom's clerical establishment in favor of synchronizing with a more cosmopolitan, global capitalism that appeals to international investors and maybe even non-Muslim tourists. The prince grabbed headlines in recent days by vowing a return to "moderate Islam." He also suggested that his father's generation had steered the country down a problematic path and that it was time to "get rid of it." (Times of Israel)

IDF SEALS OFF 10 TUNNELS UNDER JUDEA & SAMARIA SECURITY FENCE: The IDF sealed off 10 tunnels under the security barrier in Judea & Samaria near the city of Hebron, after dozens of Palestinians reportedly managed to illegally cross into Israeli territory through the passages over the past few weeks. Each of the tunnels, which were built to serve as drain pipes, was about 1.5 meters (five feet) in diameter and about 20 meters (65 feet) in length, allowing for people to easily cross through them, Israel Radio reported on Friday, 27 Oct. 2017. Last week, at least 100 Palestinians who crossed into Israeli territory via the massive drainage pipes carried out a series of agricultural thefts near Moshav Shekaf, in the Lachish region, stealing dozens of tons of produce according to the radio report. (Times of Israel)

USA VICE PRESIDENT PENCE PLANS MIDEAST TRIP: CHANUKAH IN ISRAEL: USA Vice President Mike Pence will travel to the Middle East in Dec. 2017. Pence will visit Israel during the festival of Chanukah, meeting with PM Netanyahu and other government leaders on a variety of topics headed by the prospects for President Trump's "ultimate deal," an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. Also on the docket is a review of what the new American policy toward Iran will

mean. The Vice President will also travel to Ramallah for talks with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas before leaving for Egypt and meetings with President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi in what is being described as an American show of solidarity with Egypt. The USA-Egypt relationship has had its ups and downs including the withholding of aid and Egypt's inclusion on the list of nations facing a reduction in its future aid package. But the VP himself described religious freedom as the centerpiece of the forthcoming trip to Egypt. He has stressed that President Trump is sending him to the Middle East to "bring the president's message to leaders across the region; the message that now is the time to bring an end to the persecution of Christians and all religious minorities." (Medialine)

ISRAEL ACCUSES UN HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICIAL OF HATEFUL INCITEMENT: A special investigator assigned by the United Nations Human Rights Council to look into abuses in the Palestinian territories left out any mention of actual Palestinian abuses in his report. He instead released a litany of complaints and charges against Israel. Lynk, the UN special rapporteur, admitted to journalists that he did not add human rights abuses by either the Palestinian Authority or Hamas to his report because that was not in his mandate to do so, even though his title seemed to indicate it was. But that wasn't the end of it: UN Watch, a human rights group based in Geneva, released a letter to Lynk calling on him to investigate human rights abuses by Palestinians. "By any definition of human rights, morality and logic, if Mr. Lynk is a United Nations human rights monitor for the Palestinian Territories, he must address Palestinian Authority and Hamas torture and arbitrary arrest committed against their own people," said Hillel Neuer, the executive director of UN Watch.

Neuer listed examples of human rights violations enacted against its own citizens by both Hamas and the Palestinian Authority that included jailing of journalists, the suppression of peaceful protests, torture, torture of juveniles and extrajudicial killings. He also cited the killing of Israelis in terror attacks, suicide attacks and kidnappings by Palestinian terror groups. Lynk did concede that he possibly would consider asking the council when he next reports in March 2018 to expand his mandate to include Palestinian abuses. Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon fired off a statement accusing Lynk of spreading hateful incitement against the State of Israel. "The UN Human Rights Council has lost its legitimacy as it focuses obsessively on attacking Israel instead of working on resolving the real human rights problems plaguing the world. The Council has lost all touch with reality and the original intent of upon which it was founded," Danon said. The Trump administration is said to be strongly considering pulling the USA out of the Human Rights Council just as it recently did when it left another UN body, UNESCO, citing amongst other reasons its anti-Israel bias. (Fox)

130 ISRAELI COMPANIES, 60 INTERNATIONAL CORPORATIONS ON UN "BLACKLIST": 130 Israeli companies and 60 international corporations operating in Israel have received warning letters from UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid bin Ra'ad al-Hussein cautioning them of their impending inclusion in a "blacklist" of companies active in the territories. No such lists pertaining to other regions of conflict have been created. Meanwhile, The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has been working to promote legislation in Congress determining that any company divesting its business dealings from Israel will be considered to have "capitulated" to the Arab boycott, and would thus be in violation of American law. (Ynet)

IN SHOCKING ABUSE MOVE, EUROPEANS AWARD FATHER OF SLAIN PALESTINIAN TERRORIST: Last week the Geneva-based International Institute for Human Rights and Peace presented a "human rights" award to Palestinian Arab lawyer Mohammed Allyan. Allyan was honored for his legal representation three years ago of the wife of one of the terrorists involved in the synagogue massacre in Jerusalem. In that attack, terrorist Ghassan Abu Jamal and his accomplice shot, stabbed and beheaded four Jewish rabbis at worship before also gunning down one of the police officers. When

questioned by police, Jamal's wife, Nadia, expressed support for the massacre and revealed that she had prior knowledge of her husband's bloody plans. She was subsequently stripped of Israeli residency and lost the health care that Israeli taxpayers had previously covered for her and her family. Nadia insisted her human rights had been violated, and Allyan jumped to her defense. That in itself makes Allyan more villain than hero. But that's not where the story ends:

Allyan is also the father of Bahaa Allyan, one of two terrorists responsible for the October 2015 attack on a Jerusalem commuter bus, during which three Israelis were mercilessly murdered. Beyond the fact that Allyan raised a son capable of committing such atrocities, a year later, in 2016, he was arrested for publicly praising his son's heinous actions during lectures at local elementary schools. Allyan actively trying to encourage future generations of Palestinian Arabs to follow in his son's footsteps by murdering Israeli Jews. And the Europeans reward him as a champion of peace and human rights. (Israel Today)

RUSSIA TEST FIRES HUGE 'SATAN TWO' BALLISTIC MISSILE THAT CAN CARRY 12 NUCLEAR WARHEADS AND WIPE OUT BRITAIN OR TEXAS IN ONE STRIKE: Russia carried out a successful test of its Satan 2 nuclear missile on 27 Oct. 2017 the country's defense ministry said. The rocket, also known as RS-28 Sarmat, was fired from the Plestek Cosmodrome and traveled 3,600 miles before hitting a target on the Kura test range. Three submarines capable of carrying nuclear warheads also carried out successful ballistic missile tests, while three bombers hit ground targets with cruise missiles. Two of the submarine-launched missiles were fired in the Okhotsk Sea, north of Japan and close to North Korea, the Russian military said. A third missile was fired from the Barents Sea, in the Arctic Ocean. The rockets hit 'ground-based' targets in Kamchatka, eastern Russia, in the Komi Republic, in the north, and on Russian military terrain in Kazakhstan. The missile is capable of carrying 12 nuclear warheads and wiping out entire countries in a single strike, according to the Kremlin. The Sarmat next generation intercontinental ballistic missile can 'beat any defenses' and wipe out entire countries, according to Russia's military. The weapon could be in use by 2019 - 2020. It would be capable of delivering warheads of 40 megatons - 2,000 times as powerful as the atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. (UK Daily Mail)

SYRIAN GOVERNMENT TO BLAME FOR APRIL SARIN ATTACK -UN REPORT: The Syrian government of Bashar al-Assad is to blame for a chemical attack on the opposition-held town of Khan Sheikhoun that killed dozens of people last April, according to a report sent to the United Nations Security Council on Thurs. 26 Oct. 2017. The attack prompted a USA missile strike against a Syrian air base which Washington said was used to launch the strike. "Time and again, we see independent confirmation of chemical weapons use by the Assad regime," Nikki Haley, the United States' UN ambassador, said in a statement. "The Security Council must send a clear message that the use of chemical weapons by anyone will not be tolerated, and must fully support the work of the impartial investigators." The report also said ISIS was to blame for the use of sulfur mustard in the Syrian town of Umm Hawsh on Sept. 15 and 16, 2016. "The continuing use of chemical weapons, including by non-State actors, is deeply disturbing," said the report. "If such use, in spite of the prohibition by the international community, is not stopped now, a lack of consequences will surely encourage others to follow." Previous reports have already found Syrian government forces were responsible for three chlorine gas attacks in 2014 and 2015. Syria agreed to destroy its chemical weapons in 2013 under a deal brokered by Russia and the United States. (Reuters)

ISRAELI JUDOKA WINS GOLD MEDAL: Israeli Judoka Tal Flicker took home the gold medal at the Judo Grand Slam in Abu Dhabi. Flicker beat Azerbaijan's Nijay Shikhalizadeh to win the top prize

in the 66 Kilogram division. Earlier, Israeli Gili Cohen won the bronze medal in the women's 52 Kilogram division. The Israeli delegation to Abu Dhabi had found itself in a storm of controversy after the Arab nation discriminated against the Israeli athletes and refused to permit them to wear the Israeli flag during the competition, forcing them to compete under the International Judo Federation's (IJF) flag instead. Abu Dhabi also refused to play the Israeli national anthem after Cohen and Flicker's win. The International Judo Federation fired off a letter to the United Arab Emirates Judo Federation President Mohamed Bin Thalub on 25 Oct. 2017 in response and demanded that "all delegations, including the Israeli delegation, shall be treated absolutely equally in all aspects, without any exception." The Israeli delegation was also left stranded at Ben-Gurion Airport after Abu Dhabi refused to allow them to fly via Turkey. The 12 Israeli judokas were supposed to receive their visas to the United Arab Emirates in Istanbul and arrive for the competition on Mon 24 Oct. 2017. The team had to travel to Amman to receive the visas instead. It has historically been challenging for Israeli athletes to compete at sporting events that are held in Arab countries. (Arutz-7)



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