

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 15, 2017 (24th of Elul, 5778)



‘THE UN IS PLAYING WITH FIRE’: Israel’s Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely, who is on a working visit to the United States, responded to the proposed attempt by the UN Human Rights Council to publish a 2017 black list of companies which do business in Judea, Samaria, the Golan Heights, and eastern Jerusalem. "The UN is playing with fire," Hotovely warned. "The longer it continues to act against Israel, the more it will lose its budget. These actions could act as a boomerang, harming the UN. Israel is working together with the United States to formulate a plan of action to stop the UN bias towards Israel. "The UN Human Rights Council is the most hypocritical arena, and so that is where the transformation will begin." Hotovely traveled to Washington DC in order to meet with Trump Administration officials and members of Congress to discuss the Iranian and North Korean threats and how to end UN bias against Israel. (INN)

ISRAEL TAKES ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: The Israeli government is preparing to take on one of the world’s most prominent NGOs over the group’s explicit endorsement of a boycott targeting Israeli products from Judea and Samaria. Amnesty International, a British-based NGO which describes itself as a “global movement” dedicated to ending “abuses of human rights”, this summer called for a ban on all Israeli products from eastern Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. “The international community must ban the import of all goods produced in illegal Israeli settlements and put an end to the multimillion dollar profits that have fueled mass human rights violations against Palestinians,” Amnesty International declared on 7 June 2017. That campaign, Israeli officials warned shortly thereafter, violates anti-BDS legislation passed by the Knesset in 2011, making the offenders like

Amnesty International liable for financial sanctions. In July 2017, Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon pledged to use “every means we have, including revoking tax benefits” to punish Amnesty over its anti-Israel campaign.” The Finance Ministry is poised to impose sanctions on Amnesty International’s Israel branch, formally declaring it in violation of the anti-BDS law, ending the tax exemption on donations to the group, and leaving it vulnerable to lawsuits by companies that have been impacted by boycotts or bans. (Reuters) **The boycott, divest, and sanction (BDS) movement seeks to cut economic ties with Israel, Since its beginnings a decade ago, BDS has never been invoked against any other country. Common sense and decency asks how a self-described "human rights" movement can single-out the only democracy in the region, while ignoring the brutal treatment of women and minorities in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran and Pakistan. Almost everything the Nazis said about the Jews is said today by BDS supporters about Israel. There is a worldwide struggle today against the very existence of one country of the all countries in the world. Not N. Korea. Not Iran. Not Sudan. Only Israel.**

ARGENTINA TURNS OVER TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTS TO ISRAEL: President Mauricio Macri of Argentina gave Israeli PM Netanyahu tens of thousands of documents about World War II, some of them related to Nazi war criminals. Digital copies of the documents were delivered 12 Sept. 2017, in a box with five discs totaling 5 terabytes of information. “I gave to the prime minister a historic Argentinean documentation digitalized about the Holocaust for the use of the State of Israel to investigate and spread the information. This is very important for us,” Macri said in Buenos Aires at the first-ever formal meeting between the leaders of both countries. The documents will clarify the help that Argentina, which stayed neutral for much of World War II before joining the Allies, provided to Nazi criminals. The country was a postwar refuge for Nazis: including Adolf Eichmann captured in 1960. Macri at the meeting with Netanyahu said Argentina will work “together with Israel and our allies against terrorism.” Netanyahu thanked “my friend Mauricio. Netanyahu also spoke of Iranian terrorism and the nuclear threat. “They have a terror machine that encompasses the entire world, operating terror cells in many continents, including in Latin America,” the Israeli leader said. Addressing the world powers’ 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, he said, “I’ll be straightforward. This is a bad deal ... either fix it or cancel it. That’s the Israeli position,” he said. Next week, Netanyahu will meet President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. (J.Post)

UN APPROVES NEW SANCTIONS ON NORTH KOREA: The UN Security Council on 10 Sept. 2017, unanimously imposed new sanctions on North Korea. The new sanctions ban textile exports and restrict shipments of oil products and come in response to Pyongyang’s sixth and largest nuclear test. With backing from China and Russia, the council voted 15-0 to support the USA-drafted sanctions resolution just one month after banning exports of coal, lead and seafood in response to North Korea's launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile. The measure is the eighth series of sanctions imposed on North Korea since it first tested a nuclear device in 2006. On 10 Sept. 2017, North Korea threatened it would inflict "the greatest pain and suffering" on the United States if Washington persists in pushing for harsher UN sanctions on the isolated country.(INN)

EGYPT CUTS MILITARY TIES WITH NORTH KOREA: Egyptian Defense Minister Sidki Sobhi told his South Korean counterpart during a recent visit to Seoul that Cairo had "already severed all military ties with North Korea." Egypt has for decades maintained close ties with North Korea, which has sold weapons to Egypt and upgraded its arsenal of medium-range, ground-to-ground missiles. (AP)

ISRAELI OFFICIAL: NETANYAHU MUST PUSH TRUMP TO END IRAN DEAL: A top deputy to PM Netanyahu on 11 Sept. 2017, said the Israeli leader must push President Donald Trump to freeze, change or cancel the international community's nuclear deal with Iran during an upcoming trip to the United States. Yisrael Katz, Israel's minister for intelligence and strategic affairs, told a security conference in the central Israeli city of Herzliya this week that changing the deal should be Netanyahu's "primary mission." Netanyahu is expected to meet with Trump next week on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Katz said the world's failed attempts to negotiate a halt to North Korea's nuclear program provides a lesson. "Iran is the new North Korea," he said. "We need to act now so we won't be sorry tomorrow about what we didn't do yesterday." The deal offered Iran relief from international sanctions in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program. Israel has repeatedly claimed the deal will not prevent Iran, its archenemy, from developing a nuclear weapons capability. On the campaign trail, Trump repeatedly criticized the nuclear agreement as a bad deal. His administration has faced two 90-day certification deadlines to state whether Iran was meeting the conditions needed to continue enjoying sanctions relief under the deal and has both times backed away from a showdown. But Trump more recently has said he does not expect to certify Iran's compliance again. The next deadline is in October. (Washington Times)

SOUNDS OF MESSIAH? HORNS OF JACOB'S SHEEP BLOWN: For the first time since the Temple stood in Jerusalem, the sounds of shofarot (ram horns) from Jacob's Sheep were heard in Israel, trumpeting out from the mountains of Naftali, in a powerful chorus that may soon be announcing Messiah in the far corners of the world. A small ceremony was held in Ramot Naftali near the Lebanese border on 10 Sept. 2017 to inaugurate the Jacob's sheep shofarot. The sheep have not existed in Israel since Biblical times. The breed derives its name from the unique dark spots that correspond to the story of Jacob and Laban. The ceremony was a bittersweet celebration. After struggling many years to overcome bureaucratic hurdles and practical obstacles, Gil and Jenna Lewinsky finally succeeded in bringing their flock of 119 sheep from Canada to Israel last year. Despite succeeding in this daunting task, the couple's trials were still not over when they landed in Israel. Two months ago, many of the sheep contracted Bluetongue Disease. Mortality from the disease can run as high as 90%.

From the Lewinskys' herd, 48 sheep died, leaving the couple with slightly more than half their original herd. Remarkably, the young lambs born the month before, normally the most susceptible to the disease, were all spared. "It was so sad to lose so many rams," Jenna said. "But sometimes, that is the way God brings joyous blessings into the world: through sadness and suffering." The blessing came in the form of the horns of the dead rams. Jacob's Sheep are unique in that the rams each have four horns from which to make shofarot, rather than just two. After having 34 horns prepared and made into shofarot, the Lewinskys offered them for sale at \$500 each. Within 24 hours, every single shofar was purchased. (WND)

ISRAEL RUSHES AID TEAMS TO FLORIDA: Israeli humanitarian-aid groups are on their way to Florida in the wake of Hurricane Irma. Three teams of volunteers from IsraAID, ZAKA Search and Rescue, and the Israel Rescue Coalition, all of who rushed to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in Texas, are now on their way to Florida to help. Other Israeli aid teams are heading to Mexico, which was hit by a deadly earthquake on 7 Sept. 2017, and are offering aid to communities in Haiti and the Caribbean also devastated by Irma. (Israel 21c) **Our hearts and prayers continue to go out to the**

families and global communities who have suffered immense loss through natural disasters in the past two weeks.

ISRAEL OFFERS RECONSTRUCTION AID TO MEXICO AFTER EARTHQUAKE: Israel will offer aid in reconstruction and any other assistance needed to Mexico in the wake of a severe earthquake. "Israel sends condolences to the families of the victims. We understand that these are difficult days for this country, for the Mexican people," Israeli PM Netanyahu said 10 Sep. 2017. At least 90 people have died in the 8.1 magnitude earthquake that struck off the southern Pacific coast. The Mexican states of Oaxaca and Chiapas was hardest hit. Netanyahu said he would offer the aid in person when he meets with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto this week, on part of his visit to Latin American, the first such visit by a sitting Israeli prime minister. (JTA)

TAYLOR FORCE ACT TO BE ENFORCED STARTING IN 2018: The Taylor Force Act was attached to the 2018 Foreign Operations budget in the Senate on 7 Sept. 2017. The Taylor Force Act would cut USA funding to the Palestinian Authority (PA) until it ends its policy which distributes \$300 million to terrorists and their families annually. The bill is named after Taylor Force, a former United States Army officer who was murdered in a stabbing attack in 2016, while walking along the Jaffa boardwalk. A recent report found that more than half of the PA's yearly budget goes to terrorists, with more than \$1 billion having been dedicated for such purposes in the last four years alone. Despite pressure to end the policy of paying the families of terrorists who murdered Jews, PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas told the United States last month that he has no intention of doing so. "I do not intend to cease paying salaries to the families of prisoners and martyrs, even if it means I lose my position. I will continue paying their salaries until my dying day," he said. (Arutz-7)

MORE THAN 70 TERROR CELLS BUSTED IN LAST 2 MONTHS, NETANYAHU SAYS: PM Netanyahu revealed 10 Sept. 2017 that dozens of terror plots were stopped in the past two months by the Shin Bet domestic security service. "In July and August, the Shin Bet thwarted over 70 terrorist cells that were planning attacks against Israeli soldiers and civilians," Netanyahu said. "Israeli civilians don't know everything that the Shin Bet does." He did not elaborate on the nature of the attacks. Last week the agency said in its monthly report that it had recorded 110 terror attacks in Aug. 2017 compared to 222 the previous month, when tensions around the Temple Mount compound in Jerusalem generated a major spike in incidents. The decrease brought the number of attacks back to a level similar to before the July conflagration, which resulted in the highest number of incidents in any month since Dec. 2015. From Jan. 2016 onward, Israel saw an average of 121 attacks against its citizens per month. (Times of Israel)

IDF: ISRAEL IS DEALING WITH THREATS NEAR AND FAR: IDF Military Intelligence chief Maj.-Gen. Herzl Halevi said last week that Israel is "dealing with threats near and far," following reports of an Israeli strike on a chemical arms plant in Syria. He added: "The threats to Israel are from armed terrorist groups, most of them aided and funded by Iran. They are grave threats, but not existential ones." According to Halevi, "Our enemies know well the combination between precise intelligence and abilities. Iran, which wishes to establish a foothold on our border, is flooding the area with lethal arms and an ideology which is no less lethal. The IDF is working to keep the war back, and prepare for it." (Ha'aretz)

'IRAN IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO ISRAEL': Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman on 10 Sept. 2017, said at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism's 17th annual international

conference in Herzliya, "All Islamic terror is supported by Tehran. This includes Sunni terror, the groups in Yemen, and even Al-Qaeda. And we are all aware of the cooperation between Al-Qaeda and Iran's Revolutionary Guard. Terror is a radical ideology which abuses the weak and supposedly works for their benefit. Brutal methods and a lack of red lines characterize all terror organizations throughout the generations. Another characteristic is the attempt to 'export' the terror, to 'export' the revolution. What enables terror to exist? According to Liberman, the answer is a sovereign government. "Terror will always have a charismatic and stirring leadership," he said. "The most frightening and dangerous organization is the Revolutionary Guard. The most important characteristic of any terror organization is a governmental framework which supports it, whether openly or secretly. Without this government support, terror could not exist."

Liberman then discussed possible courses of action. "You need to understand that for Tehran, terror is just one way of accomplishing their goals. Tehran works on four different levels to destroy the State of Israel: In addition to financing terror, Iran also works to acquire non-conventional weapons, to create a large conventional army, and to wage a cyber battle against Israel. Will Hezbollah continue to exist without Iranian support? Absolutely not. Can Hamas exist without Iran? Certainly not in its current proportions. Certainly, the Islamic Jihad cannot exist without Iran. We can identify the source, but not always do we say it in public. The main issue today is Iran." (INN)

IRAN BOASTS THAT IT TRICKED THE WORLD, CAN NOW START MAKING NUKES: Israel warned former USA President Barack Obama that Iran wouldn't honor the nuclear arms deal he brokered with the Islamic Republic. The ayatollahs and their elected puppets went through the motions, but never truly fulfilled the stipulations of the agreement. The West, fearful of escalating tensions, turned a blind eye to numerous violations. But that only kicked the can down the road, as the Americans say. Now, top Iranian officials are openly boasting of successfully playing the West, while retaining the ability to restart their nuclear arms program at a moment's notice. In a 22 Aug. 2017 interview on Iran's IRINN TV, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Ali Akbar Salehi, revealed that his people had poured cement into a few external pipes at the Arak nuclear reactor in order to fool international inspectors, but had not disabled its core. "If we want to, we can start enriching uranium to 20% within five days, and that is very significant," said Salehi. The question is whether or not Western powers see it as such. (Israel Today)

RAISING ANTI-SEMITISM IN GERMANY IS WORK OF THE FAR RIGHT, SAYS GOVERNMENT TALLY: Right-wing extremists have committed the vast majority of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel offenses in Germany, which have seen a rise over the corresponding period last year, according to a government report. Of the 681 incidents reported from January to August 2017, 92% were committed by right-wing extremists. In 23 cases, political motivations such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were involved. In that period last year, there were 27 fewer such crimes registered. The report, which the Interior Ministry provided this week was requested by Green Party legislator Volker Beck. Charlotte Knobloch, head of the Jewish community of Upper Bavaria and Munich, said the numbers were "oppressive for the Jewish population and shameful for our country." Even though they were not much higher than last year's, the figures "are all the more upsetting if you look at them in the context of the small number of Jews in Germany," Knobloch said. The country's Jewish population is about 200,000, or 0.25 percent of the total population in Germany. Beck said the reported crimes are "only the tip of the iceberg." The dark number of unreported crimes is - we fear - much higher," he said in a statement, adding that many victims of such crimes still fear going to the police. Beck also said the problem came from the entire society "and not just from refugees, immigrants or Muslims." Right-

wing, populist political parties have tried to put the blame for growing intolerance and other societal ills on those populations, especially in the countdown to national elections later this month. (JTA)

DOZENS OF SEALS FROM FIRST TEMPLE PERIOD FOUND IN JERUSALEM: Several dozen seals and seal impressions from the First Temple period, many with biblical-type names in ancient Hebrew text, have been found in this year's excavations at the City of David, lending credence to the theory that Jerusalem was a major administrative capital of the Judean kingdom, say archaeologists exploring the site. When the Middle Eastern ancients wanted to secure a letter or notarized document with a seal, they used moist clay that would be imprinted with the seal. "Somewhere in the late 8th century BC, until 586 BC, seals started bearing names of the officials sealing the letters," explained Joe Uziel. "Jerusalem was the capital of the Judean monarchy." (Ha'aretz)

SYRIAN ARMY THREATENS 'DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES' FOR AIR STRIKE: The Syrian army responded Thur. morning 7 Sept. 2017, to the air strike the previous night on a Syrian military site in western Syria. The Syrian army claimed that Israeli warplanes fired several rockets from the Lebanese airspace at 02:42 am on Thursday targeting one of the Syrian military posts near Masyaf, killing two army personnel and causing material damage to the site. "The attack proves Israel's direct support for ISIS and additional terror organizations," the army claimed. In addition, it threatened that "The aggressive Israeli attack could have dangerous consequences on stability and security in the region." Later Thurs. Executive Director of Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Security Studies Amos Yadlin noted that the strike was "not routine."

"It targeted a Syrian military-scientific center for the development and manufacture of, among other things, precision missiles, which will have a significant role in the next round of conflict." The factory that was targeted in Masyaf produces the chemical weapons and barrel bombs that have killed thousands of Syrian civilians," he continued. "If the attack was conducted by Israel, it would be a commendable and moral action by Israel against the slaughter in Syria." Yadlin emphasized that "The attack sent 3 important messages. 1: Israel won't allow for empowerment and production of strategic arms. 2: Israel intends to enforce its redlines, despite the fact that the great powers are ignoring them. 3: The presence of Russian air defense does not prevent airstrikes attributed to Israel. Now it's important to keep the escalation in check and to prepare for a Syrian-Iranian-Hezbollah response, and even opposition from Russia," he said. (INN)

UN REPORT BLAMES SYRIAN REGIME FOR APRIL CHEMICAL ATTACK: A UN Commission of Inquiry said 6 Sept. 2017 that Sukhoi 22 aircraft operated by the Syrian Air Force carried out the attack on the Syrian village of Khan Sheikhoun on 4 April 2017 that killed at least 83 people, injured close to 300 others, and prompted President Trump to order cruise missile strikes on the airfield where the planes were based. The panel said at least 20 chemical weapons attacks were carried out from March 2013 to March 2017 by government forces, though the number of reported chemical attacks is vastly higher. Charles Lister, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington, noted that the UN report "comes just as the international community is loosening or removing altogether its opposition to Assad's continued rule." (N.Y.Times)

RIVLIN TELLS MERKEL ISRAEL OBLIGATED TO RESPOND TO HEZBOLLAH'S REARMAMENT: Speaking just hours after Syria accused Israel of striking a military site responsible for research on chemical weapons, Israel's President Reuven Rivlin warned German Chancellor Angela

Merkel that Iranian ambitions to establish a foothold in Syria via a Shiite corridor into its territory would 'plunge the entire region into a war.' Rivlin also reiterated that Israel would be obliged to respond in the face of Hezbollah's rearmament. The warning came during a meeting in Germany just hours after Syria threatened "serious consequences" following an alleged Israeli aerial strike on a scientific center near Hama, which is responsible for research and development of nuclear, biological, chemical and missile technology and weapons. Iran, the president told Merkel, was leading efforts to establish a Shiite corridor into Syria and spread its dominion throughout the Middle East, a fact which he said would constitute a direct threat to Israel and to stability in the region. Laying out the dangers before Merkel of Hezbollah's activities in Lebanon being abetted by Tehran, Rivlin explained that the Lebanese population itself is being seriously endangered in direct contravention of UN security council resolutions. (Ynet)

ISRAEL HOLDS MAJOR MILITARY DRILL 'SIMULATING WAR' WITH HEZBOLLAH: Beginning 4 Sept. 2017, the Israel Defense Forces deployed thousands of air, sea and land personnel to the Lebanese border for its biggest military drill in almost two decades. A military official said the exercise was to prepare for "preserving the current stability in the northern sector," as well as "scenarios we'll be facing in the next confrontation with the Lebanon-based Hezbollah terrorist group." The drill is utilizing planes, ships, submarines, drones, cyber and canine units, and Israel's missile defense system. Elite units are practicing disarming bombs and locating and fighting in tunnels. Two field hospitals and trucks and helicopters for evacuating casualties have also been set up. (UK Independent)

'BEFORE WEARING A HIJAB, SHE WAS JUST AND ORDINARY WHITE GIRL': Anti-Israel activist Linda Sarsour is never seen without wearing her trademark Islamic head covering, or hijab. However, a new video has surfaced shows Sarsour admitting that she wears a hijab in order to be considered a 'person of color.' In a video clip uncovered by popular blogger Elder of Zion, Sarsour says that "when I wasn't wearing a hijab I was just some ordinary white girl from New York City. Wearing hijab made you know that I was Muslim." Despite her light skin tone, Sarsour commonly identifies as a person of color, and berates her critics for being 'white supremacists.' In August 2017 Sarsour compared Zionists to white supremacists at a rally for controversial Quarterback Colin Kaepernick, saying that "We will not be silenced by white supremacists, by neo-Nazis, or right-wing Zionists." (Arutz-7)

PLANNED PARENTHOOD KILLED 1.1 MILLION BABIES IN 2016: One of the world's most extensive and prolific abortion networks has passed a tragic milestone. In 2016, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), for the first time reported in its history that it had aborted more than one million unborn baby boys and girls in a single year. The final death toll for 2016: 1,094,679 children lost through surgical or chemical abortion —roughly the equivalent of the population of Austin, Texas. IPPF also performed an additional 3.6 million abortion-related activities including abortion counseling, consultation, and diagnostic procedures. The figures were recently released in IPPF's Annual Performance Report 2016. (WND) *Over a million, beautiful, God-given lives aborted in the name of "free choice." May God have mercy on the unborn and bring repentance to those who engage in the business of the daily murder of hundreds of innocent babies. Pray that women considering abortion will know the brutal facts of what will happen to their unborn children if they follow through with terminating their pregnancies - and change their minds.*

PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT URGES CONGRESS TO DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD IMMEDIATELY: Ten of the most prominent pro-life leaders in the USA sent a letter to Congress last week urging the legislature to defund Planned Parenthood once and for all. “This Republican Pro-life Congress made a promise to American voters to stop taxpayer funding for the largest abortion chain in the nation, Planned Parenthood,” the letter said. “It is now well past time to deliver on that promise.” Congress failed to pass the health care bill repealing and replacing Obamacare before the August 2017 recess. That bill also included a provision for defunding Planned Parenthood, which receives more than \$500 million in annual taxpayer funding. The pro-life leaders urged Congress to revisit that bill. President Trump promised during the campaign to redirect Planned Parenthood’s funding to women’s health clinics that do not perform abortions. But infighting over how to repeal and replace Obamacare has stalled that effort, and Planned Parenthood continues to receive taxpayer dollars. The organization performs roughly 900 abortions every day. (Washington Times)



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