

## ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 8, 2017 (17<sup>th</sup> of Elul, 5778)***



**NETANYAHU DECLARED ‘HONORED VISITOR’ BY BUENOS AIRES:** Israeli PM Netanyahu has been declared an honored visitor by the Buenos Aires city legislature. The honor will be bestowed on him on 12 Sept. 2017 while he is in Buenos Aires, at the empty town square that marks the place where the Israeli embassy was located until it was destroyed in a car bomb attack in March 1992, which killed 29 people. Netanyahu also will visit Jewish institutions and will honor the victims of the 18 July 1994 terrorist attack against the AMIA Jewish center that killed 85. Both attacks remain unsolved. Netanyahu’s visit to Argentina will be the first by a sitting Israeli prime minister since the creation of the State of Israel in 1948. “This is a gesture of the utmost importance,” read the resolution passed last week by the city legislature. Netanyahu is scheduled to arrive in Argentina’s capital on 11 September with a group of 30 Israeli businessmen to meet national government authorities, local Jewry and businessmen. He will spend his visit in the capital city Buenos Aires, home of 165,000 Jewish inhabitants. Following his visit to Argentina through 13 Sept. 2017 Netanyahu will travel north to Colombia and then to Mexico. Netanyahu then will arrive in New York to speak at the UN General Assembly on 19 September. (Arutz-7)

**A BRIEF REVIEW:** There is much unsolved skulduggery surrounding the Buenos Aires attacks that targeted the Jewish community in 1992 and 1994. For the first time in 2016, an Argentinean judicial official confirmed that the former special prosecutor investigating into the 1994 AMIA bombing, Alberto Nisman, had not committed suicide but had been murdered. Ricardo Sáenz, the prosecutor before the Buenos Aires Criminal Appeals Court, said Nisman was the victim of a “homicide.” In a ruling presented before the Appeals Court, mother and sister said that the case could no longer be handed by Judge Fabiana Palmaghini, but must go before a federal magistrate. Nisman, the lead

investigator into the horrific 1994 bombing of the Buenos Aires Jewish center, and a Jew himself, was found dead in a pool of blood in his bathroom on 18 January 2015, a 22-caliber revolver at his side. He had been due to appear before a congressional hearing the next day to deliver a scathing report that accused then-president Cristina Kirchner of shielding high-ranking Iranian officials from prosecution over the bombing. (INN) **May long overdue compelling evidence come to light that will bring to justice all those responsible for these brutal attacks and murders - suspected to have been backed by Iran and compliant, willing Buenos Aires.**

**RIVLIN HEADS TO MUNICH TO UNVEIL MONUMENT TO MURDERED ISRAELI ATHLETES:** President Reuven Rivlin left for Munich on Tues. evening, 5 Sept. 2017, for the inauguration of the long overdue monument in memory of 11 Israeli athletes who were brutally murdered and cruelly dismembered during the 1972 Munich Olympics by terrorist organization Black September. Rivlin's departure coincided with the 45th anniversary of the 5 Sept. attack on the Israeli section of the Olympic Village. Rivlin who will unveil the monument together with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said he was honored to join the German president in paying tribute to the proud Israeli sportsmen who were murdered in cold blood. He sees the monument, which is located at the Olympic Park and is a meeting center carved like an open wound into the hillside, as a warning symbol of the danger of hatred and the brutality of terrorists. He also regards it as a declaration that perpetrators and supporters of terrorism will pay for their crime. After the ceremony, Rivlin and his wife will meet with the families of the victims. Rivlin will then fly to Berlin for a meeting with Chancellor Merkel. (J.Post)

**USA POLICE TRAIN IN COUNTERTERRORISM IN ISRAEL, ATTEND 9/11 MEMORIAL:** For the second consecutive year, the Police Unity Tour, a delegation of 52 American law-enforcement officers from 12 states, arrived in Israel to train in counterterrorism techniques and attend an annual 9/11 memorial service outside Jerusalem. According to the delegation's leader, Michael Safris, chief of the Essex County's Sheriff's Office, the Police Unity Tour was established in 1997 to honor officers killed in the line of duty. "We are here to honor fallen police officers from the USA and Israel," he said on 4 Sept. 2017. During their stay, the USA delegation will be based at the Beit Shemesh police academy, where they will participate in multiple counterterrorism training exercises, meet with elite units, and be briefed by Police Commissioner Roni Alsheich. The delegation will conclude following a 11 Sept. 2017 memorial service held at the 9/11 Living Memorial Plaza in the Arazim Valley. (J.Post)

**IN WAKE OF HARVEY DEVASTATION, ISRAEL PLEDGES \$1M. TO HOUSTON'S JEWISH COMMUNITY:** Diaspora Affairs Minister Naftali Bennett has pledged \$1 million in relief aid for the Jewish community of Houston, saying, "The Jewish state is measured by its response when our brothers around the world are in crisis." This aid will be used to help repair and restore the communal infrastructure – schools, synagogues and JCC – which are not funded or supported by the state. "The city of Houston has been hurt badly, and the Jewish community – 70% of which lived in the flooded neighborhoods – was hit hard," said Bennett. "The old-age home and JCC were damaged, and hundreds of families will remain homeless. From talks we've had with the heads of the community and Israel's Consul General, we learned the damage is vast, and the rehabilitation will take years. For years the Jewish communities stood by Israel when it needed their help; now it is our turn to stand by Houston's Jewish community." (J.Post)

**USA: NORTH KOREA IS BEGGING FOR WAR:** USA Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley said that North Korea is "begging for war" at an emergency session of the UN Security Council to discuss

the rogue nation's recent hydrogen bomb test. Ambassador Haley listed off the actions the UN has taken to contain North Korea's reckless and destabilizing behavior, before declaring, enough is enough. "Twenty-four years of half measures and failed talks is enough." She said that the "incremental approach" which the international community has taken towards North Korea and its nuclear ambitions had failed despite the best of intentions. "We have kicked the can down the road long enough. There is no more road left," she said. "The time has come to exhaust all diplomatic means to end this crisis. Only the strongest sanctions will enable us to solve this problem through diplomacy." Sunday's detonation was the sixth nuclear weapons test North Korea has carried out since 2006. North Korea claimed on 2 Sept. 2017, it has developed a hydrogen bomb (H-bomb) which can be loaded into the country's new intercontinental ballistic missile. USA President Donald Trump suggested a military attack on North Korea was on the table following the announcement of the thermonuclear test.

**USA MILITARY TESTING ISRAELI RADIATION EXPOSURE DRUG:** The USA Department of Defense is testing an Israeli drug designed to help the body recover after exposure to radiation in the case of nuclear fallout. The USA is testing the medicine to see if it can be administered before service members are exposed to radiation. The test of what North Korea claimed to be a hydrogen bomb has increased the urgency of perfecting such a drug. The Israeli company Pluristem has partnered with the medical university at Fukushima, Japan, site of a 2011 nuclear meltdown, in developing the drug. (CNN)

**INDIA TO BID FOR ISRAEL OIL-AND-GAS EXPLORATION BLOCKS:** Indian state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp plans to bid for Israeli offshore oil-and-gas exploration blocks, India's oil minister told Reuters. This is the first major deal between the two countries since a groundbreaking trip by PM Narendra Modi in July 2017. India and Israel have deep defense ties but Modi and his right wing ruling group are pushing to expand the relationship into other sectors such as energy and technology with a country they see as a natural ally against terrorism. A high-ranking delegation from India, the world's third-biggest oil consumer, visited Israel last month to discuss taking part in the tender for blocks in the Mediterranean Sea and Israeli officials said they were pleased with the visit. "We will definitely bid for Israel's oil-and-gas blocks," said Indian Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. (Reuters)

**ISRAEL'S EXPORTS UP 6 PERCENT IN FIRST HALF OF 2017:** Israeli exports rose 6% - to \$50 billion - during the first half of 2017. The jump in exports was driven by rapid growth in high-tech services and incoming tourism, the report said. Exports of services totaled \$21 billion in the first half of this year, boosted by the rising trend in exports of computer and software services, which grew 12% to \$6.8 billion. Exports of tourist services were up 16%, to \$3.2 billion, in the same period. Exports in industrial sections - including drugs, chemicals, refined oil products and electronic components - grew 5%. "Increasing exports is a strategic goal of the Ministry of the Economy and Industry, because the export industries feature high productivity," Israel's Minister of the Economy Eli Cohen said. "We are continuing our efforts to attract international companies. With the help of incentives for exporters, we will cross the \$100 billion mark, which is our annual export target." (Algemeiner)

**IN FIRST, ISRAELI WINS BRONZE AT WORLD GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS:** Israeli gymnast Linoy Ashram finished third in the all-around competition at the World Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships, making her the first Israeli to ever win a medal in the category. Prior to Ashram's performance on 1 Sept. 2017, in Pesaro, Italy, the best result for an Israeli in the category was Neta Rivkin's seventh place finish at the 2015 world championships. Following her third-place finish,

Ashram said the significance of the historic result is “slowly” starting to sink in. “But on the other hand I must be focused and quickly return to my routine in order to work on my next goals,” said the 18-year-old Rishon LeZion native. Asked about the possibility of winning a medal in the 2020 Olympics, Ashram said, “There are three years of hard work waiting for me,” she said. “In the meantime I want to thank everyone for the support - the team of coaches, the Olympic committee and the people of Israel,” she added. (Times of Israel)

**NORTH KOREA SAYS HYDROGEN BOMB TEST WAS "PERFECT SUCCESS":** North Korea said on Sunday 3 Sept. 2017, it has successfully tested a hydrogen bomb designed to be mounted on its newly developed intercontinental ballistic missile, producing a greater yield than any of its previous nuclear tests. The hydrogen bomb test ordered by leader Kim Jong-un was a "perfect success" and was a "meaningful" step in completing the country's nuclear weapons program, state television said. The announcement came hours after a large earthquake that appeared to be man-made was detected near the North's known nuclear test site, indicating that the reclusive country had conducted its sixth nuclear test. South Korea said that North Korea's defiant sixth nuclear test should be met with the "strongest possible" response, including new UN Security Council sanctions to "completely isolate" the country. Seoul and Washington also discussed deploying USA strategic military assets to the Korean peninsula after North Korea defied international warnings and conducted its most powerful nuclear test ever. (Reuters)

**YA'ALON: TENSIONS IN KOREA WORRY ISRAEL:** Former defense minister Moshe Ya'alon says tension on the Korean peninsula should worry Israel. Writing on Twitter, Ya'alon said, "The response of the international leadership, led by the USA, to the provocations of the N. Korean regime will reflect on the Iranian regime's nuclear policy in the near future." (Times of Israel)

**REPORT: USA TO LET IRANIAN-BACKED FIGHTERS WITHIN 10 KM OF GOLAN HEIGHTS:** USA officials have agreed to let Iranian-backed fighters take up positions in Syria less than ten kilometers from the Israeli Golan Heights. Russian media claims that Moscow has ignored pleas from Israel to prevent Iran from exploiting Syria's ongoing civil war to expand its military influence into Syrian territory. Citing unnamed Western diplomatic sources, the report said a USA team that was holding talks with their Russian counterparts in Amman, Jordan, to discuss the nationality of observer forces overseeing a July 2017 truce, backed down on some of their initial demands. The report said the USA agreed that Iranian-backed militias could be positioned as close as 8-16 kilometers (five to ten miles) from the Jordanian border and the Golan Heights, less than half the originally sought 32 kilometers (20 miles) distance. In July 2017 the Times of London reported that Israel was pushing Russia and the USA for an agreement that would prevent “Hezbollah or other Iranian-backed militias” from operating in the area, which would extend some 30 miles (48 kilometers) beyond the Israeli-Syrian border on the Golan Heights. Hezbollah, the Lebanese terror group that acts as a proxy of Iran, has been fighting on behalf of the Syrian President Bashar Assad in his efforts to suppress a six-year long insurgency. Russia, an ally of both Syria and Iran, has also provided military assistance in the war. The USA negotiators also agreed to let Russian observers police the truce zones, angering other USA officials and allies of America. In particular, Israeli officials are concerned that the Russian presence could limit its operations against targets in Syria, the report said. (Times of Israel)

**ANTI-SEMITISM IN POLAND BEING 'NORMALIZED,' EUROPEAN JEWISH GROUP WARNS:** There has been a "distinct normalization of anti-Semitism" in Poland, the European Jewish Congress (EJC) warned last week and called on the Polish government to respond forcefully. The EJC

also expressed "grave concerns" over the deteriorating relationship between the Polish government and Poland's Jewish population at a time of rising anti-Semitism in the country, stating that no senior Polish government official has met with the Union of Jewish Communities in Poland, the democratic body responsible for representing Polish Jewry, in approximately one year. The EJC statement declared that Jewish community concerns have peaked following a string of anti-Semitic incidents in Poland. According to the statement, the rise in anti-Semitism "appears to have permeated many layers of Polish society. Recent incidents have included the appearance of flags of the far- Right ONR Falanga group at state ceremonies and Law and Justice member of parliament Bogdan Rzonca's social media post that said: "I wonder why, despite the Holocaust, there are so many abortionists among Jews." In August 2017, an Israeli soccer team was attacked by Polish hooligans following a soccer match near Warsaw. Also in August, Leslaw Piszewski, president of the Union of Jewish Communities in Poland, and Anna Chipczynska, president of the Jewish community in Warsaw, sent an open letter to a founder of the Law and Justice party stating that they were "fearful for their security as the situation in their country is becoming more dangerous." In 1939, Poland's Jewish population stood at over 3 million people, representing almost 10% of the country's citizens and the largest Jewish population in Europe. Today, it is estimated that there remain approximately 10,000 Jews in Poland. (J.Post)

**RELIGIOUS COURT IN ISRAEL RULES MESSIANIC JEWS ARE CONVERTS TO CHRISTIANITY:** An Israeli rabbinical court has for the first time ruled on the religious status of Messianic Jews – Jewish men and women who assert that they are Jews but nevertheless believe in Yeshua as the Messiah. In a case involving such a couple, the Tel Aviv Rabbinical Court ruled that the plaintiffs cannot marry in a religious ceremony in Israel because they are considered to be converts to Christianity. The judges went on to say that the court will re-address the issue if the couple “declares before the court they have completely given up their Christian beliefs, including their belonging to a Messianic Jewish community.” The basic position of Jewish law is that those born Jewish remain so despite apparent conversion. But the court relied on a High Court ruling that denied a Messianic couple the right to immigrate under the Law of Return because the law denies the right to members of another religion and the parties in that case averred that they did, indeed, belong to another religion. (Medialine)

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***Sharing Yeshua in unity with both Jew and Gentile***