

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update October 11, 2018 (Tishrei 2, 5779)



[For the Yachad Report Newsletter For October 2018](#)

TWO MURDERED IN SAMARIA TERROR ATTACK: 2 people were murdered and another person wounded Sunday morning 7 Oct. 2018 in a terror attack in the Barkan Industrial Park in Samaria. Initial details found that the shooter, a 23 year old PA resident of the village of Shuweika near Tulkarem who worked at a factory at the park, entered the building with a rifle, ascended to one of the upper floors and began shooting. The dead woman later was identified as Kim Levengrond Yehezkel, 29, of Rosh Ha'ayin in central Israel. The dead man was identified as Ziv Hajbi, a 35-year-old father of three from Rishon Lezion in central Israel. They both were tied up and shot at close range. A 54 year old woman was seriously wounded and evacuated to Beilinson hospital in Petah Tikvah by Magen David Adom emergency medical responders. The hospital later announced that the condition of the evacuated woman, who suffered from a stomach wound, was classified as moderate and that her life was not in danger. She was hospitalized for further treatment. The shooter has escaped. Security forces are searching the area for the suspect. Israel's PM Netanyahu at the weekly Cabinet meeting on Sunday morning, 7 Oct. called the shootings a severe terrorist attack. "The security forces are in pursuit of the reprehensible murderer. I am certain that they will apprehend him and I am also certain that we will deal with him to the fullest extent of the law and quickly," Netanyahu said. President Reuven Rivlin said in a statement, "This was not only an attack on innocent people going about their daily lives, it was also an attack on the possibility of Israelis and Palestinians co-existing peacefully. I call on the Palestinian leadership to condemn this murderous attack and to use the forces at their disposal to capture the terrorist and those who aided him."

DANON TO SECURITY COUNCIL: CONDEMN BARKAN ATTACK: Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, on Sunday night 7 Oct. 2018 called on the UN Security Council to condemn the terrorist attack in the Barkan Industrial Zone and the wave of terror coming from the Palestinian Authority (PA). "Instead of preaching to Israel and stopping proposals for calming the region, PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas must sound a clear and firm voice against the instigators and terrorists coming out of the Palestinian Authority," Danon wrote. "Financing terrorists is fuel for terrorist attacks like the one that took place in Barkan, and only stopping it will help terror. The members of the Security Council must come out with a clear condemnation of the murderous attack. It is your responsibility and your commitment to the Middle East and the world, and more importantly, for the children of Kim and Ziv who have remained orphans," he concluded.

CRUZ: THE INCITEMENT AND ATROCITIES MUST END: USA Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) on Sunday 7 Oct. 2018 condemned the terrorist attack in the Barkan Industrial Zone in which two Israelis were murdered. "Last month a Palestinian terrorist murdered Ari Fuld, an American-Israeli. Palestinian leaders said the terrorist became eligible for salaries and benefits, a reward and incentive. Today a terrorist murdered two Israelis—the incitement and atrocities must end," tweeted Cruz. Kim Levengrond-Yehezkel, 28, from Rosh Ha'ayin, and Ziv Hajbi, 35, of Rishon LeZion, were the victims of the attack which took place on Sunday morning. The terrorist Ashraf Na'alwa, a resident of the village of Shweika, fled the scene after the attack. IDF and Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) forces continue to hunt for him. IDF soldiers arrived at the terrorist's home, mapped the building and carried out interrogations and arrests of suspected terrorists. As of late Monday 8 Oct. Israeli forces had yet to apprehend him.

ABBAS' ULTIMATUM TO HAMAS: In talks between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, PA President Mahmoud Abbas gave Hamas an ultimatum – give the PA full control of the Gaza Strip by the end of the month, or suffer the consequences, according to a statement made by an official in the PA presidency bureau. Hamas leadership and senior Palestinian Authority officials concluded a round of talks in Cairo with little results, Israeli media reported. According to the report, the PA is planning on cutting some \$96 million which Gaza receives from it every month, risking a worsening of the already dire situation in Gaza. Last week, Hamas official Mahmoud al-Zahar claimed that Abbas is planning on taking severe measures against the organization, such as stopping the transfer of salaries to Hamas clerks – a longtime issue and well known ultimatum card between the Palestinian leader and Hamas. The two factions have been attempting to reach reconciliation and understandings for several years, more adamantly so with the mediation of Egypt over recent months. The Hamas-Fatah conflict has been ongoing since 2007, when Hamas violently took control of Gaza from Fatah.

PA BLOCKS QATARI FUEL AID FOR GAZA: Palestinian sources have confirmed that threats made by the Palestinian Authority have delayed the planned transfer of emergency Qatari-funded fuel to Gaza. According to a Palestinian report, Qatar had agreed to pay \$60 million for fuel for Gaza's sole power plant for six months to enable Gazans to enjoy eight hours of electricity every day instead of four. The diesel fuel, to be provided by an Israeli company, was supposed to enter Gaza on 4 Oct. 2018. However, the PA contacted the company and threatened to stop all purchases from it in Judea & Samaria if it transferred the fuel to Gaza. PA officials also called UN employees in Gaza who were to physically transfer the fuel and threatened that they would pay a "heavy price" if they showed up to work.

ISRAELIS ON GAZA BORDER MULL EVACUATION DUE TO RIOTING: The violent Palestinian rioting near the Gaza border fence has in recent weeks been continuing into the night. Almost every evening, hundreds and at times thousands of Palestinians gather at different spots and riot until midnight, hurling explosive devices, grenades, stones and firecrackers at IDF forces, and launching incendiary balloons and kites. Palestinians have also been playing recordings of the Code Red rocket-alert siren, using megaphones to scare Israelis living near the border. Residents of Kerem Shalom, and particularly young children, have been suffering from breathing difficulties and vomiting caused by the smoke from burning tires. Representatives of the Environmental Protection Ministry carried out several air quality tests and recommended last week that residents "close themselves up in their homes."

Following the tests, Kerem Shalom's residents had an emergency discussion with IDF officials where they presented their complaints. "Our community is covered in suffocating smoke," one said. "Last week, worshipers drove to the synagogues in their cars, as it was impossible to walk outside because of the pollution. The IDF fires tear gas, and because of the westerly winds, everything flies back to us," the same resident said. "In recent days, there were grave incidents of children walking around outside when all of a sudden a wave of tear gas and black smoke came. They simply dropped to the floor and couldn't breathe." IDF sources told them they will find a solution. But until then, residents are considering evacuating the town. At this time, however, there has been no decision made to evacuate, mostly because the residents don't want to give Hamas a victory

from the protests. But if the situation gets worse, they say they might not have a choice but to leave. *The ongoing terrorist attacks, launched from the Gaza Strip on a daily basis, are leading to another war between Hamas and Israel. The return of terrorism from Gaza includes renewed arson attacks, as well as explosives-laden toys thrown over the fence. It would only take one Israeli child harmed by one of these innocent-looking improvised bombs to change Israel's policy at the border. Intercede for solutions to this snowballing prelude to another full-scale Gaza conflict between Israel and Hamas and for the protection of Israelis and their property in Israel's southern communities.*

JERUSALEM TO REMOVE UNRWA FROM CITY: Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat said late last week that he plans to remove the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, from the city, accusing the body of operating illegally and promoting incitement against Israel. Schools serving 1,800 students, clinics and sports centers, among other services operated by UNRWA in eastern Jerusalem, would be transferred to Israeli authorities. "The USA decision to cut UNRWA funding has created a rare opportunity to replace UNRWA's services with services of the Jerusalem Municipality. We are putting an end to the lie of the 'Palestinian refugee problem' and the attempts at creating a false sovereignty within a sovereignty," Barkat said. Israeli PM Netanyahu has said UNRWA should be abolished and its responsibilities taken over by the main UN refugee agency. Some in Israel have even tougher criticism, accusing UNRWA of teaching hatred of Israel in its classrooms and tolerating or assisting Hamas terrorists in Gaza. The USA meanwhile has demanded the agency carry out reforms before it restores funding.

THREE ISRAELI GYMNASTS WIN GOLD MEDALS AT INT'L ACROBATICS COMPETITION: Three 15-year-old Israeli acrobats' days ago won the gold in the Budapest Acro Cup for trio pyramid acrobatics at the advanced level between ages 12-18. Shai Horesh from Moshav Hatsev, Shir Edri from Rehovot and Leah Curcus from Rehovot competed against and eventually defeated some of the most renowned teams in the world such as China, Russia, and Great Britain. The Beer Tuvia local council stated "this is pride is a double one, both of the council and of course of Israel." "This is the happiest moment of my life," said an emotional Horesh. The leader of the dynamic trio, Horesh added that "the ambition and passion for personal excellence is an inseparable way of her life." "We wish Shai to continue breaking personal records," the Beer Tuvia council said. "We wish that she may continue to represent us with great pride."

GERMAN CHANCELLOR MERKEL IN JERUSALEM: IRAN MUST NOT HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS: German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in Jerusalem on Thur. 4 Oct. 2018 that Israel and Germany share the view that everything must be done to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons. "The threat to Israel from Iran has become stronger due to its presence in Syria", Merkel said, noting that Iranian troops had been close to the Golan Heights border with Israel. Merkel dismissed as "fake news" reports that she had conditioned her arrival in Israel on a delay in the planned resettlement of residents of the illegal Bedouin encampment of Khan al-Ahmar. "It is an internal Israeli decision. It is up to the Israeli government and we did not intervene," Merkel said.

WHITE HOUSE UNDERCUTS PALESTINIAN SUIT OVER JERUSALEM MOVE: The Trump administration has withdrawn the USA from an international agreement currently serving as the basis for a Palestinian lawsuit against Washington at the International Court of Justice. USA national security adviser John Bolton told reporters at the White House that the president authorized withdrawal from the Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, while remaining party to the overall treaty. This, Bolton said was done in order to undercut "politicized litigation" from the "so-called state of Palestine," currently challenging the USA for its relocation of the USA embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. "We will commence a review of all international agreements that may still expose the USA to purported binding jurisdiction dispute resolutions in the International Court of Justice," Bolton said, also outlining a similar move on a treaty at the core of litigation with Iran. Bolton said the moves were less about Iran or the

Palestinians and more about the ICJ, which he and the Trump team considers an “ineffective” body without jurisdiction over the USA. Bolton has similarly targeted the International Criminal Court.

JOHN BOLTON: ‘PALESTINE’ IS NOT A STATE: USA National Security Adviser John Bolton announced Wed. 3 Oct. 2018 at a White House press briefing that the USA had decided to leave the optional protocol on dispute resolution of the UN's Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations. The protocol provides a mechanism whereby signatory states may take each other to the International Court of Justice to settle diplomatic disputes. Bolton explained that the move was brought about by “the so-called state of Palestine” challenging the move of the USA embassy to Jerusalem at the international court, stating bluntly that "Palestine" is not a state. "It's not a state now. It does not meet the customary international law test of statehood," he said. "It doesn't control defined boundaries. It doesn't fulfill normal functions of government. There are a whole host of reasons why it's not a state. It could become a state, as the president said, but it requires diplomatic negotiations with Israel and others," he added. "We have consistently, across Democratic and Republican administrations, opposed the admission of 'Palestine' to the UN as a state, because it's not a state.

USA CANCELS 1955 TREATY WITH IRAN: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on 3 Oct. 2018 that the United States is terminating the Treaty of Amity reached with Iran in pre-revolutionary days, calling it an “absolute absurdity” given the tensions between the two countries. The impetus for the United States tearing up the treaty was a decision earlier that day in the International Court of Justice, which ordered the Trump administration to lift some sanctions on Iran. The top UN court, which is in The Hague, does not have the power to enforce its decisions, which are usually ignored by the United States anyway. “We ought to have pulled out of it decades ago,” Pompeo said, calling it “39 years overdue” in a reference to the 1979 revolution in Iran. “Today marked a useful point for us to demonstrate the absolute absurdity of the Treaty of Amity between the United States and the Islamic Republic.” The court told the United States that it should lift a number of sanctions that were re-imposed after President Trump announced in May 2018 that he would withdraw from the landmark nuclear agreement with Iran. A more punishing round of sanctions against Iran’s oil and financial sectors is scheduled to take effect on 4 Nov. 2018, and the United States is warning allies that they could face secondary sanctions if they continue to do business with Iran.

FORTH HEZBOLLAH MISSILE SITE REVEALED: Thousands of residents in Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, received a message with a satellite image and a warning about a Hezbollah rocket-enhancement site in the region, media sources reported on 3 Oct. 2018. According to the report, the IDF exposed another missile improvement plant and pictures show that it is in the heart of a neighborhood. This is a fourth site, which is in addition to the three sites uncovered in PM Netanyahu's speech at the UN General Assembly, in which he described weapons factories operating in population centers without the knowledge of the residents. The fourth site is located in the heart of a residential neighborhood, next to a school and a hospital and a small distance from a large university and the offices of the Spanish embassy in Beirut. The IDF sent pictures of the site to the residents of the area, in an attempt to make the local population aware of the dangers it faces.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS DEMAND FOR ‘SETTLEMENT’ PRODUCT LABELING: French authorities have suspended their insistence on special labeling for Judea & Samaria products following a lawsuit alleging that the practice is discriminatory. The France office of NGO Amnesty International complained about the suspension. “Instead of complying with the request to end imports from the Judea & Samaria, the government has chosen to roll back and suspend the demand for labeling.” The measure was initially adopted in 2016. That year, the French Economy Ministry’s General Directorate for Competition, Consumption and Fraud Prevention published circulars requiring retailers to use the word “colonies,” French for “settlements,” to specify goods originating in Israeli communities in the Golan Heights, Judea & Samaria and eastern Jerusalem. Israel considers the Golan and all of Jerusalem an integral part of its territory, as well as Judea & Samaria disputed land where most Jewish settlements are legal municipal entities. But much of the

world, including the European Union and its member states, views the land as occupied and the settlements as illegal.

In 2015, the European Commission adopted binding regulations requiring such labeling. However, the commission has no recourse against countries that do not apply the regulations and no lawsuit has been brought to date against a vendor who declined to apply them. France's major supermarket chains apply no special labeling for settlement goods. Israel has vocally protested the passing of these regulations. Earlier this year The LawfareProject, a pro-Israel think tank, initiated a legal action challenging the labeling requirements on behalf of PsagotWinery LTD, an Israeli vineyard whose European distributors are subject to the labeling rules. In France, the legal action in May 2018 prompted the Council of State, which is the government's legal adviser, to ask the European Court of Justice for its opinion on the legal status of labeling.

ISRAEL'S SENIOR CITIZENS HAPPY WITH THEIR LIVES: Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) published data showing that most of Israel's senior citizens are happy with their lives. Israel currently has over one million senior citizens, 42% of whom are over age 75. The number of Israelis aged over 65 years has been gradually climbing since 1948, when they represented just 4% of the population: In 2017, senior citizens represented 11.6% of the population, and in 2040, they are expected to represent 14% of Israelis, or almost two million people. Sixty percent of senior citizens are widows or widowers. Approximately 24,000 seniors live in a home with one other person who is not a relative (usually an aide). When asked about their health, 43% said their health wasn't so good or was not good at all. However, when polled, 85% of seniors said they were happy with their lives and 22% were "very happy" with their lives.

S-300 SYSTEMS ARRIVE IN SYRIA: Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoygo told Russian President Vladimir Putin that the S-300 anti-aircraft had reached Syria. It was Shoygo who announced a week and a half ago that Moscow would soon supply Syria with the advanced air defense system. The supply of the system to Syria is part of Russia's response to the downing of the Russian reconnaissance plane on the Mediterranean coast during an Israeli attack in the Latakia region of Syria. The loss of the aircraft, including all 15 crew members, caused a crisis between Russia and Israel, even though the missiles that struck the aircraft were fired by the Syrian military. The Defense Ministry in Moscow claimed that the Israel air force behaved unprofessionally and contrary to the coordination agreement between the two countries

NETANYAHU: HEZBOLLAH BRAZENLY LYING: Israeli PM Binyamin Netanyahu responded to a tour conducted by a Hezbollah television crew and Lebanese Foreign Minister Jubran Basil to foreign ambassadors, aimed at showing that Netanyahu is lying and there are no missiles in the region. "Hezbollah is brazenly lying to the international community by means of the fraudulent propaganda tour of the Lebanese Foreign Minister who took ambassadors to the soccer field but refrained from taking them to the nearby underground precision missile production facility. It is unfortunate that the Lebanese government is sacrificing the peace of its citizens to cover for Hezbollah which has taken Lebanon hostage for its aggression against Israel," Netanyahu said. Lebanon's Foreign Minister Gibran gathered 73 ambassadors near Beirut international airport in a bid to disprove Israeli accusations that Hezbollah had secret missile facilities there. On 27 Sept.2018 Netanyahu said in an address to the UN General Assembly that Hezbollah had secret missile conversion sites near Beirut airport. He produced satellite imagery pinpointing three sites and accused the powerful Iranian-backed Shiite militia of using Beirut residents as human shields. "So I also have a message for Hezbollah today: Israel knows what you're doing. Israel knows where you're doing it. And Israel will not let you get away with it," Netanyahu said. Last month, its chief Hassan Nasrallah announced that Hezbollah had acquired "precision missiles". The Jewish state has fought several conflicts against Hezbollah, the last in 2006. The Israeli military believes Hezbollah has between 100,000 and 120,000 short-range missiles and rockets, as well as several hundred longer-range missiles.

IRAN GUARD LAUNCHES MISSILES INTO SYRIA OVER PARADE ATTACK: Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said on 1 Oct. 2018 that it had launched ballistic missiles into eastern Syria, targeting

terrorists the force blames for a recent attack on a military parade in Iran. The launch was the Islamic Republic's second such missile attack on Syria in over a year. One missile shown on state television bore the slogans "Death to America, Death to Israel, Death to Al Saud," referring to Saudi Arabia's ruling family. "This is the roaring of missiles belonging to the Revolutionary Guard of the Islamic Revolution," the state TV's reporter said as the missiles launched behind him. "In a few minutes, the world of arrogance - especially America, the Zionist regime and the Al Saud - will hear the sound of Iran's repeated blows." The attack adds to confusion over who carried out an assault on a military parade in Ahvaz on 22 Sept. 2018 that killed at least 24 people and wounded over 60. Arab separatists immediately claimed the attack and offered details about one of the attackers that ultimately turned out to be true. The Guard said that based on evidence from the assault, the "terrorists" in eastern Syria are supported and guided by the United States in line with "satanic" plans of the White House, the Zionist regime — Iranian parlance for Israel — and a regional power, a reference to Saudi Arabia. This is the third time in two years that Iran has fired its ballistic missiles in anger.

GERMANY'S BEST-SELLING PAPER CALLS FOR END OF IRAN TRADE TO PROTECT ISRAEL: In a commentary this week, Germany's top-selling paper Bild urged businesses to stop trade with the Islamic Republic of Iran because of its terrorism and the mullah regime's goal to obliterate the Jewish state. "Iran cannot at this time be an ally," Bild's foreign policy editor Julian Röpcke wrote. "Neither in the fight against terrorism, nor as an oil supplier or trade partner." Röpcke, who reports on the Syrian war, termed Iran's missile launches into Syria as a "message of terror. Because they carry the meter-long inscriptions 'Death to Israel and 'Death to the USA' - and that is deadly serious for the mullahs. Iran's rockets were fired against those who stand in the way of the corrupt regime in Tehran," Röpcke wrote. "Against those who do not want to stand inactively by when Iran's leader again and again propagates the 'extermination' of Israel." Bild has a daily circulation of 1,580,977. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said on 1 Oct. 2018 that it launched six missiles at paramilitary groups located close to the Euphrates River in Syria. Iran's clerical regime claims the missile attack was in response to a terrorist attack on a military parade in the Iranian city of Ahvaz last month. Bild's commentary is believed to be first instance in the best-selling paper of a call for the complete end of business deals with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

FRANCE SEIZES IRANIAN ASSETS AFTER FOILED JUNE TERROR PLOT: France seized assets belonging to Iran's intelligence services and two Iranian nationals in response to a June 2018 plot to attack an exiled Iranian opposition group's rally outside Paris, the government said on Tues. 2 Oct. 2018. France had warned Tehran to expect a robust response after an Iranian diplomat was arrested in Germany suspected of involvement in a plot to bomb the meeting of the Paris-based National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI). USA President Donald Trump's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, and several former European and Arab ministers attended the rally in Villepinte. "An attempted attack in Villepinte was foiled on 30 June 2018. An incident of such gravity on our national territory could not go unpunished," said a joint statement by the foreign, interior and economy ministries. The asset freezes targeted two individuals identified as Assadollah Asadi and Saeid Hashemi Mo ghadam. A unit within the Iranian intelligence services was also targeted. The hardening of relations with France could have wider implications for Iran. France has been one of the strongest advocates of salvaging a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, which USA President Donald Trump pulled out of in May 2018. On Mon. 1 Oct. 2018 a court in southern Germany said the detained Iranian diplomat, who is accredited in Austria, could be extradited to Belgium, where two other individuals suspected of involvement in the bomb plot were arrested on 30 June 2018.

MOST OF UNRWA FOREIGN STAFF MEMBERS LEAVE GAZA FOR SAFETY REASONS: Citing safety reasons, the UN Relief and Works Agency withdrew most of its foreign staff from Gaza on Tues. 2 Oct 2018. UNRWA spokesperson Chris Gunness called on the Hamas-led government in Gaza to "respond to UNRWA's repeated demands to provide effective protection to its employees and facilities. The lack of effective security and safety risks is impacting vital humanitarian services to more than 1.3 million refugees in Gaza," he said. UNRWA withdrew staff members following "a series of worrying security incidents,

including death threats, affecting its personnel.” Guinness added that a number of UNRWA workers had been “harassed and prevented from carrying out their duties” by people angered by the organization’s cost-cutting measures due to its financial crisis. Hamas has reportedly done nothing to prevent the violence against the UNRWA personnel.

LARGEST GAZA RIOT IN SIX MONTHS RAGES ON: Living up to its threat to escalate its violent demonstrations along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel, Hamas has organized the largest melee since it began weekly “Return Marches” six months ago. As of 2 Oct. 2018 officials were estimating that some 4,000 Palestinians were participating in confrontations with Israeli defense forces, with no deterrent factor apparent even after the deaths of seven Palestinians since Friday 28 Sept. 2018 when the estimate of rioters was as high as 20,000. Protesters have been hurling rocks and Molotov cocktails at the Israelis in record numbers while a significant number of kites and balloons laden with incendiary devices and explosives have successfully floated into Israeli air space resulting in fires.

96-YEAR-OLD JEWISH AMERICAN WINS NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS: Arthur Ashkin, who retired after 40 years from Bell Labs in New Jersey in 1992, but remains active in his home laboratory, at 96 is the oldest ever Nobel laureate. He started his work on manipulation of micro particles with laser light in the late 1960s which resulted in the invention of optical tweezers in 1986. Optical tweezers can grab particles, atoms, viruses and other living cells with their laser beam fingers and have resulted in the invention of advanced precision instruments used in corrective eye surgery and in industry. Ashkin won one half of the \$1 million prize, with Gerard Mourou of France and Donna Strickland of Canada sharing the other half for together developing a method to generate ultra-short optical pulses, which also is used in corrective eye surgery.



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