

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update October 18, 2018 ***(Tishrei 9, 5779)***



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

SENATE APPROVES SANCTIONS AGAINST USE OF HUMAN SHIELDS: The USA Senate has unanimously passed a bipartisan bill that would enact sanctions on those who use human shields in war, including terror groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah. The bill, which was approved days ago was authored by Senators Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Joe Donnelly (D-IN) and was co-sponsored by 50 other senators. "I commend the Senate for unanimously passing our bipartisan bill," Sen. Cruz said on 12 Oct. 2018. "Terrorist groups, including Iranian proxies such as Hamas and Hezbollah, have made the use of human shields a routine tactic. This bill signals to the rest of the world that America will hold accountable anyone who uses civilians as shields to achieve military ends, as well as their enablers. I encourage the House to come together and pass our bill as soon as possible."

Arthur Stark, Chairman, and Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman/CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, welcomed the approval of the bill. "We applaud the USA Senate for unanimously passing the STOP (Sanction Terrorist Operations) Using Human Shields Act. This bill requires the President to identify and impose sanctions on each foreign person who is a member of or acting on behalf of Hezbollah and Hamas who knowingly orders, controls, or otherwise directs the use of civilians to shield military objectives from attack. The bill had 50 bipartisan Senate co-sponsors, and reflects the Senate's broad consensus to punish all who engage in this inhumane and barbaric practice. We eagerly await the bill's swift passage through the House of Representatives, President Trump's signature, and the vigilant implementation of this additional authority," they said.

PRIME MINISTER THREATENS HAMAS: 'VERY STRONG BLOWS': PM Binyamin Netanyahu opened the weekly cabinet meeting Sun. morning 14 Oct. 2018, during which time he issued strong threats against the Hamas terrorist group, following the escalation of the situation along the Gaza Strip border during the past week. "Hamas has apparently not understood the message: If they do not stop the attacks, they will be stopped in another way and it will be painful, very painful," Netanyahu said. The prime minister added, "We are very close to activity of a different kind that will include very strong blows. If Hamas has any sense, it will stop the fire and the violent riots now."

LABOUR FACING FRESH ANTI-SEMITISM ROW AS REPORT IS SET TO LAY BARE THE SCALE OF HATE CRIMES AGAINST JEWISH PEOPLE: Bitter divisions over anti-Semitism in the Labour Party will be reopened by Ministers this week with official figures expected to show a rise in hate crimes against Jewish people. In what Jeremy Corbyn's supporters will perceive as a deliberate attempt to stoke rows within his party over the 'racist' behavior of his supporters, the Government is planning to release stand-alone figures for anti-Semitic offences for the first time. The move – part of a new drive to crack down on soaring hate crime – follows a summer in which a future Labour government was said to pose an 'existential threat' to British Jews, while Corbyn himself was branded a 'racist and anti-Semite' by one of his own MPs. Jewish safety group the Community Security Trust recorded 727 anti-Semitic incidents in the first half of 2018, including 34 that made specific reference to Labour. However, the figures to be published this week are expected to provide more detail on the scale of the problem. One Corbyn supporter is facing arrest after failing to appear in court to answer allegations that he branded a senior Labour figure a 'Jewish pig' and a 'bloodsucker'.

DESPITE SURGE FROM RUSSIA, ALIYAH FALLS IN 2018: Jewish immigration to Israel dropped slightly in the first eight months of 2018 over the corresponding period last year, despite a 35% increase in traffic from Russia. The 1% overall drop owed to a decrease in immigration from countries with major Jewish populations, including Ukraine – which saw an 8% drop to 4,094 immigrants in 2018 – and France, which dropped by 31% to 1,862 newcomers between 1 Jan. 2018 and 1 Sept. 2018. By contrast, Aliyah from Russia increased to 6,331 newcomers in the first trimesters of 2018 compared to 4,701 in that period in 2017. The increase in immigration from Russia came amid a financial crisis there and in Ukraine, which in 2014 entered a territorial dispute. Many Russian Jews are feeling increasingly uncomfortable in Russia amid the erosion of democratic principles and free media there, Natan Sharansky, the former chairman of the Jewish Agency, has said. Immigration to Israel according to its Law of Return for Jews and their relatives, or Aliyah, decreased from the United States by 17%, with 2,066 USA Jews making the move in the first eight months of 2018 compared to 2,483 in the corresponding period last year. Aliyah from the United Kingdom, where many Jews are contemplating leaving in light of the prospect of Labour, with its anti-Semitism problem reaching power, increased by a mere 7%, to 371 newcomers. Overall, Israel saw the arrival of 18,965 immigrants under the Law of Return, or olim, in the first eight months of 2018 compared to 19,067 in the same period last year.

JEWISH TEENS ASSAULTED, ROBBED IN ANTI-SEMITIC ATTACK IN FRANCE: French police arrested four men they said had attacked four Jewish youths in an anti-Semitic assault in Nice, triggered by one of the victims wearing a Star of David pendant. The incident in the southern French city occurred on Sat. 13 Oct. 2018. The four suspects and a fifth teenager, who was not immediately apprehended, assaulted the victims, beating them and causing minor injuries. At least one of the perpetrators also stole a golden chain from one of the victims, the municipality said. Mayor Christian Estrosi, who has vowed a zero tolerance policy on racist violence and radical Islam activities in his city, said he found the incident "unacceptable" in a statement from his office titled "anti-Semitic assault in the center of Nice." Police officers under command canvassed the city in search of the perpetrators, resulting in the suspects' arrest within a few hours of the incident. "I cannot permit the rise of anti-Semitism in our city, or in our country," added Estrosi. "The cowardice and violence of these attacks must not be trivialized and go unpunished," he added.

PRO- ISRAEL SWEDISH FLOTILLA ARRIVES IN HERZLIYA: Two months after a Swedish protest ship tried to sail to Gaza; on 12 Oct. 2018 a friendlier ship from Sweden arrived in Israel carrying 50 Israel-supporting Swedes including politicians, clerics, journalists and musicians. Stefan Abrahamsson, a Christian businessman who initiated the project, said, "We came here because Sweden's image in Israel is very bad and we are here to express our sorrow over this. Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East that is built upon ideals which are central throughout the Western world, such as equality. However, Israel is the only country which my country condemns. We are here to tell Israelis: 'We love you, we are standing behind you and want

to show our solidarity with you." Herzliya Mayor Moshe Fadlon said, "At a time when Israel is under attack internationally, these friends are a beacon to the nations of the world."

DUTCH ART MUSEUMS HOLDING 170 WORKS POSSIBLY STOLEN FROM JEWS: Dutch museums are in possession of at least 170 artworks that may have been stolen from Jewish owners during the Holocaust, a commission of inquiry concluded following years of research. The artworks of murky provenance are worth many millions of dollars and include Jan Adam Kruseman's "Salome with the Head of the Baptist," which is at the royal Rijksmuseum of art in Amsterdam; Hans Memling's "The Movement" from the Boijmans Van Beuningen museum in Rotterdam as well as an aquarelle by Wassily Kandinsky from the Stedelijk Museum of modern art in Amsterdam. In total, the 170 artworks in question are distributed among no fewer than 42 museums, according to the decade-long research project by the research team "Museal Works from 1933," which includes provenance and inventory experts. The group is working to locate the owners of the paintings, many of which may have been sold off by Jews under duress following the rise of the Nazis to power in Germany in 1933. Others may have been stolen by the Nazis or their collaborators.

INSIDE ISRAEL'S POLICE ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT: The motto of Israel's Yamam police anti-terrorist unit is from Ps. 18:37: "I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn back until they were destroyed." Yamam is the world's busiest force of its kind, averaging 300 missions a year, and its expertise is in high demand. Israel's minister for public security, Gilad Erdan, said during his first month on the job, "I received requests from 10 countries to train together." Yamam's primary focus involves foiling terror plots, combating crime syndicates, and blunting border incursions. According to the unit's commander, "N," 44, his unit has stopped at least 50 "ticking time bombs" (suicide bombers in route to their targets) and hundreds of attacks at earlier stages. John Miller, the NY Police Department's deputy commissioner of intelligence and counterterrorism, pointed out that for every terrorist attack in Israel that makes the news, there are 10 that are prevented by Yamam. While units in the USA that respond to terror attacks have tended to arrive on the scene, cage the situation, secure a perimeter, and then call in specialists or reinforcements, Yamam goes in heavy, dispatching self-contained squadrons of breachers, snipers, bomb techs, dog handlers, and hostage negotiators. N said, "We don't have the privilege of time. You must come inside very fast because there are terrorists that are killing hostages every minute."

ANCIENT INSCRIPTION FROM SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD DISCOVERED: An exciting archaeological discovery uncovered in Jerusalem was presented for the first time Tues. 9 Oct. 2018 at a press conference at the Israel Museum. It is a stone inscription from the Second Temple period (1st century B.C.), which marks Jerusalem's name in Hebrew letters in full spelling - as is written today. During excavations conducted before the paving of a new road, foundations of a building from the Roman period that was supported by column sections were exposed. The crowning glory was a round stone column that was incorporated into the Roman building repeatedly with an Aramaic inscription in Hebrew letters, typical of the Second Temple period. Archaeologists who studied the writing, say the inscriptions from the First and Second Temples that mention the name 'Yerushalem' [Jerusalem] are very rare. They claim this is the only stone inscription from the Second Temple period recognized in studies, which mentions the name Jerusalem in full spelling. The scarcity of the name in the full spelling is also evident from the Bible, where the city appears 660 times, and only in 5 cases, relatively later, is the spelling full.

ISRAEL RECEIVES SEVEN BIDS TO BUILD WORLD'S BIGGEST DESALINATION PLANT: Israel has received bids from seven groups to build the world's largest desalination plant at Sorek in central Israel, with a capacity of about 200 million cubic meters of water a year, the Finance Ministry said this week. "The new facility, expected to be the largest in the world of its kind, will increase water production in Israel by 25% and help the water system cope with a chronic deterioration in natural water sources in the country," the ministry said. A smaller desalination facility already operates at the site. When the new facility comes

online, Israel's desalination plants will be able to supply 85% of the country's household and municipal water usage.

ISRAELI CONDUCTOR TO HEAD BBC PHILHARMONIC: Israeli Omer Meir Wellber has been appointed the chief conductor of the BBC Philharmonic. Wellber, a 36-year-old native of Beersheba, will officially step into the role in September 2019. "Having seen Omer conducting a number of orchestras over the last year I have been fortunate to have experienced his brilliance first hand in a wide range of repertoire," said Simon Webb, general manager of the BBC Philharmonic. "His immediate connection with the BBC Philharmonic was evident in his first concert, and we are now delighted to have secured one of the most sought after young conductors of his generation." Wellber graduated from the Beersheba Conservatory in 1999, and then studied at the Jerusalem Music Academy from 2000-2008. Over the years, Wellber has directed some of the most prestigious ensembles in the world, including the London Philharmonic Orchestra. He is also a regular guest conductor of the Israeli Op era, and has often appeared with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra which offered its congratulations this week on Wellber's new appointment. "Congratulations from Tel Aviv to Manchester," the IPO wrote on Facebook. "Wellber's appointment to this prestigious position is a badge of honor for both him and for the new, young generation of Israeli musicians. Good luck Omer!"

ISRAELI 15-YEAR OLD SWIMMER WINS GOLD IN YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES: Israeli swimmer Anastasia Gorbenko, barely 15, broke a six-year Israeli record and won the gold medal at the Youth Olympic Games on 7 Oct. 2018 finishing the 200-meters individual medley race in 2:12.88 minutes. Despite being two to three years younger than the other swimmers in the Youth games, Gorbenko ascended to the finals after achieving top speed in the preliminary contest, finishing the race in 2:14.74 minutes. At the finals, she beat Serbia's Anja Crevar by more than a second.

PRO-ISRAEL 'TRUMP' CANDIDATE ADVANCES IN BRAZILIAN ELECTIONS: A far-right and pro-Israel candidate many have likened to USA President Donald Trump has taken the first round of the Brazilian presidential elections. Jair Bolsonaro, a 62-year-old conservative politician, won 46% of the vote, forcing him to a runoff on 28 Oct. 2018 with left-wing Workers' Party candidate Fernando Haddad. Bolsonaro's populist candidacy was viewed by many around the world with alarm, with numerous comparisons between him and USA President Donald Trump. Bolsonaro is also known for his strong pro-Israel stance. In August 2018, he announced he will close the Palestinian Authority's embassy in Brasilia in addition to moving his country's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. "Is Palestine a country? Palestine is not a country, so there should be no embassy here," Bolsonaro declared when the National Congress reopened after a three-week recess. "You do not negotiate with terrorists," he said.

NETANYAHU: IRANIANS WILL DIP THEIR TOES IN KINNERET IF ISRAEL LEAVES GOLAN: "If Israel withdraws from the Golan Heights it will find itself with Iran and Hezbollah on the banks of Lake Kinneret", PM Netanyahu said on 8 Oct. 2018. Speaking at the dedication of the restored 1,500-year-old synagogue at the Umm al-Qanatir archaeological site in the Golan Heights, Netanyahu warned that Iran and the Lebanon-based, Hezbollah terrorist group are "continuously trying to establish a force that will act against Israel in the Golan and Galilee. We will thwart that." The prime minister noted that Israel's presence in the Golan is a guarantor of stability in the area, and is justified by its ancient Jewish ties – something he said the international community should recognize. Netanyahu reiterated that Jerusalem will "continue to act against Iranian efforts to open an additional front against us in the Golan and in Syria, and will act against efforts to transfer lethal weapons to Hezbollah." Last week, Russia delivered S-300 advanced anti-aircraft missile batteries to Syria, making IAF action against Iranian positions in Syria more challenging. *Israel captured the Golan Heights in the 1967 Six-Day War, after years during which the Syrian armed forces positioned there bombarded Israel's farms and towns, situated roughly 1,700 feet below, with artillery fire. The Syrians also sought to divert the headwaters of the Jordan River that flowed through the Golan Heights. The Jewish state annexed the territory in 1981, in a move never recognized by the international community - including*

by the United States - which still regards it as occupied. While Syrian ground forces have been severely degraded in the recent civil war, massive Russian arms transfers to the Syrian armed forces are providing the basis for the renewal of Syrian military power. There also remains the presence of Iran in Syria, and its ally Hezbollah operating from next door in Lebanon. All of this presents a serious military threat to the Jewish state. Israel is hoping the Trump administration will recognize its sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Please intercede that this will take place in the very near future - and for the safety of Israel's northern borders.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL: S-300 TO SYRIA WAS FREE OF CHARGE: Russia's recent supply of S-300 air-to-missile systems to Syria was free of charge, a Russian military diplomat said this week. "On 1 October 2018 three battalion sets of S-300PM systems of eight launchers each were delivered to Syria," the source said. Along with the launchers Russia delivered more than 100 surface-to-air guided missiles for each battalion. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said that the delivery of the system to Syria had been completed and that work on training of the crews will be finished by 20 October 2018. The missile system fires missiles from trucks and is designed to shoot down military aircraft and short and medium-range ballistic missiles. One report in Israel had indicated that Russia received \$1 billion from Syria in payment for the S-300. Israel has made repeated efforts to persuade Moscow not to sell the S-300s to Syria, as it fears this would hinder its aerial capabilities against arms shipments to the Hezbollah terrorist group. Russia announced it would upgrade Syria's anti-air defense network and send the S-300 system there, following the downing of a Russian military aircraft in Syrian airspace. USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo criticized Russia's delivery of the S-300 system to Syria and said it was a "serious escalation".

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