

# ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update November 2, 2018 (24<sup>th</sup> Cheshvan, 5779)***



## ***For the Yachad Report Newsletter For November 2018***

**ISRAELI JUDOKA WINS GOLD MEDAL IN ABU DHABI:** Israeli judoka Sagi Muki defeated Matthias Casse of Belgium in the Judo Grand competition in Abu Dhabi on Sunday 28 Oct. 2018 winning the gold medal. Culture and Sports Minister Miri Regev, who was in Abu Dhabi at the time, wrote on social media, "We made history, the people of Israel live!" During the award ceremony, Regev openly wept when the Israel anthem was played. This was the first time the Israeli national anthem "Hatikvah" had been played publicly in the United Arab Emirates. Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein called Muki "a champion" and added, "It is a great feeling to hear our national anthem played for the first time in Abu Dhabi. We salute you," Edelstein said. "You brought a great honor to the State of Israel." On Saturday 27 Oct. 2018 Regev wrote, "Our great victory in Abu Dhabi tonight is not limited to the Judo mattress – it is also about having the Israeli flag presented in the hall." Israeli judokas Gili Cohen, Baruch Shmalilov and Timna Nelson Levi won three bronze medals on Saturday. This was the first time Israeli judokas were able to compete under their own flag. In the past, Israelis could only compete in Abu Dhabi under the banner of the International Judo Federation. The event organizers avoided displaying any flags in the hall where the competitions were held. Flags were also not displayed while anthems were played during the medal awarding ceremony.

**CLAIMING ISRAEL IS 'ISOLATED' JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT HARDER:** The claim by Palestinian nationalists and their sympathizers that Israel is globally ostracized for failing to as of yet facilitate the establishment of a Palestinian state is easily debunked. As it so happens, Israel isn't even all that isolated within the Arab world. For decades, the rest of the Middle East did indeed boycott the Jewish state. But that has been changing, and a couple of examples just this past week indicated a rapid acceleration of the normalization process. Israelis were surprised over the weekend to wake up to newspaper headlines informing us that PM Benjamin Netanyahu had just returned from an official state visit to Oman. Netanyahu was personally invited to the Omani capital of Muscat by the country's leader; Sultan Sayyid Qaboos bin Said Al Said, to discuss regional issues. A day later, Omani Foreign Minister Yousuf bin Alawi addressed a security summit in Bahrain, where he urged the rest of the Arab Middle East to likewise embrace the Jewish state. "Israel is a state present in the region, and we all understand this. The world is also aware of this and maybe it is time for Israel to be treated the same as other states and to also bear the same obligations," bin Alawi told the IISS Manama Dialogue conference.

Also over the weekend, the United Arab Emirates hosted its annual Abu Dhabi Judo Grand Slam, and, for the first time ever, Israeli judokas were permitted to compete under their national flag. Competing Israelis won three bronze medals, and one gold medal. The Israeli flag was on display as they were awarded by the Arab hosts. More than that, Israel Culture and Sport Minister Miri Regev was invited to attend the competition in her official capacity. Photos of Regev with UAE President Mohamed Bin Tha'loob Al Derai quickly made waves across the region. These more recent encounters happened amid a general warming of relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia. While Jerusalem still has no official relations with any of these Arab countries, their willingness to publicly embrace the Jewish state and its leaders represents a serious change since 1 Sept.1967, when these same countries joined the rest of the Arab world in signing the Khartoum Resolution outlawing any and all ties with Israel. (Israel Today)

**ISRAELI MINISTER TO PROMOTE RAIL LINE FROM ISRAEL TO GULF STATES IN OMAN:** In a sign of continued warming ties with the Arab world, Transportation and Intelligence Minister Yisrael Katz will head to Oman to push for a regional rail line that will link Haifa with Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States. “The initiative called 'Tracks for Regional Peace' is aimed at connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Arabian Gulf (the Persian Gulf) by rail via Israel as a land bridge and Jordan as a regional transportation hub,” Katz’s office said. Katz is expected to present the plan when he addresses a regional transportation conference, called the IRU World Congress, which will take place in Muscat, 6-8 Nov. 2018. According to his office, “This is the first time an Israeli Minister has been formally invited to participate in an international conference in Oman. The invitation reflects the strengthening ties between the two countries.” Katz’s visit follows a surprise trip PM Benjamin made on Friday 26 Oct. 2018. Netanyahu spoke of the visit at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting. “On Friday, my wife and I returned from a historic diplomatic visit to Oman. I met with the leader of Oman; Sultan Qaboos bin Said, a very experienced and impressive man. This is Israel's first official visit to Oman in 22 years. In our long meeting we discussed in detail the challenges facing the Middle East. These were important talks - both for the State of Israel and very important talks for Israel's security. There will be more,” he said.

**JORDAN TURNS TO ISRAEL AMIDST DEADLY FLOODING:** As many as 20 people, mainly schoolchildren and teachers, were killed in Jordan on Thur. 25 Oct. 2018 in a flash flood near the Dead Sea that happened while they were on an outing. Thirty-four people were rescued in a major operation involving police, helicopters and hundreds of army troops. Some of those rescued were in a serious condition. Many of those killed were children under 14. A number of families picnicking in the popular destination were also among the dead and injured, rescuers said. Hundreds of families and relatives converged on Shounah hospital a few kilometers from the resort area. Relatives sobbed and searched for details about the missing children, according to one witness. King Abdullah canceled a trip to Bahrain to follow the rescue operations. Israel sent search-and-rescue helicopters to assist, an Israeli military statement said, adding that the team dispatched at Amman’s request was operating on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea. Rescue workers using flashlights were searching the cliffs near the shore of the Dead Sea where bodies had been found. A witness said a bus with 37 schoolchildren and seven teachers had been on a trip to the resort area when the raging flood waters swept them into a valley.

**TOP INDIAN OFFICIAL SEEKS ISRAELI EXPERTISE ON WASTE WATER RECYCLING:** A top Indian political leader is seeking cooperation with Israel in the realm of waste water recycling, Punjab News line reported on Thur. 25 Oct. 2018. Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh met the previous day in Jerusalem with Israeli Minister of Energy and Water Resources Yuval Steinitz. The main agenda item was “the issue of water management to boost water conservation in Punjab,” the report said. Singh “was impressed with the fact that 95% of the sewage water was being recycled for agriculture in Israel and said Punjab would like to do the same in urban areas.” He also called Israel’s drip irrigation technology a “laudable initiative that Punjab could adopt to its advantage.” Last year, Israel and India celebrated the 25th anniversary of the official

establishment of diplomatic relations. Ties between the two countries have flourished in numerous realms in recent years.

**POPE CONDEMNS SYNAGOGUE SHOOTING AS 'INHUMAN ACT':** Pope Francis on Sunday 28 Oct. 2018 condemned a deadly attack on a synagogue in Pennsylvania, calling the mass-shooting "an inhuman act of violence", expressing his "closeness to the Jewish community". A gunman who burst into the synagogue, in Pittsburgh, during a baby-naming ceremony and gunned down 11 people has been charged with murder, in the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in recent USA history. "We are all, in truth, wounded by this inhuman act of violence," Francis said in Saint Peter's Square. "May the Lord help us put out the flames of hate that develop in our societies, and to strengthen the sense of humanity, respect for life, moral and civil values and holy fear of God". Suspect Robert Bowers, 46, reportedly yelled "All Jews must die" as he sprayed bullets into the Tree of Life synagogue during Sabbath services before exchanging fire with police, in an attack that also wounded six people. The United States is witnessing a sharp spike in anti-Semitic incidents, surging 57 percent from 2016 to 2017, according to the Anti-Defamation League, a civil rights group which has tracked anti-Semitism there since the 1970s. Saturday's attack comes at a time of heightened tensions -- a day after a Florida man was arrested for mailing explosive devices to prominent Democrats, setting the country on edge ahead of close-fought elections.

**FAR-RIGHT, PRO-ISRAEL BOLSONARO WINS BRAZILIAN PRESIDENCY:** Far-right congressman Jair Bolsonaro has won Brazil's elections, taking an unassailable lead on Sunday 28 Oct. 2018 in the race for the South American nation's presidency. Voters apparently looked past warnings that the brash former army captain would erode democracy and embraced a chance for radical change after years of turmoil. He will take office on 1 January 2019. Bolsonaro, who cast himself as a political outsider despite a 27-year career in Congress, is the latest of several leaders around the globe to gain prominence by mixing tough, often violent talk with hard-right positions. But he is also very much a product of a perfect storm in Brazil that made his messages less marginalized: widespread anger at the political class amid years of corruption, an economy that has struggled to recover after a punishing recession and a surge in violence. Bolsonaro is ardently pro-Israel and has declared he will move the Brazilian embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv. His first international trip as president, he said, will be to Israel, with which he will seek to broaden the dialogue. He also promised to close the Palestinian embassy in Brasilia.

**GOOGLE LAUNCHES BIKE NAVIGATION FEATURE IN ISRAEL:** Google Maps launched its bicycle feature in Israel this week. Up to now, Israeli users of the navigation app were able to obtain routes for travel by car, on foot, or by public transport and taxi. Now, bicycle riders will also be able to find the most efficient routes to their destinations. The feature is available throughout Israel, after previously being launched in major cities around the world. To operate the feature, the user needs to input a destination address and tap the bicycle rider icon. The feature will then find the shortest route based on existing bike paths, with a minimum of hills, and avoiding dangerous roads as much as possible. The company said that the Tel Aviv, Rishon Lezion and Jerusalem municipalities had cooperated with it to improve the feature's navigation quality by providing updates on bike paths in their jurisdictions. Google calls on other municipalities to do likewise, in order to make bike paths accessible to more riders and improve the navigational directions provided to them.

**USA SURGEONS BACK ICECURE BREAST TUMOR TECHNOLOGY:** Israeli medical device company IceCure Medical (ICCM) has announced that updated guidelines have been published by the American Society of Breast Surgeons (ASBS) to recommend that surgeons take part in clinical trials for treating malignant breast tumors. The ASBS is the leading USA organization of breast surgeons, which among others things, sets guidelines for breast surgery practices, which support use of IceCure's cryoablation technology in early stage malignant breast tumors. The Israeli company has developed technology for treating breast and other benign and malignant cancer tumors by freezing the tumor during treatment in a clinic,

without surgery. In May 2018, IceCure published positive results on 146 patients taking part in a trial that it had conducted. The patients underwent a medical procedure of about 20-40 minutes in a clinic using the company's IceSense3 system. The trial took place in 18 leading USA hospitals and clinics including Mount Sinai, Beth Israel and Columbia University Medical Center.

**THAI AMBASSADOR THANKS ISRAELI COMPANY FOR AID IN RESCUE OF THAI BOYS:** The Thailand Ambassador to Israel, Penprapa Vongkovit, thanked an Israeli company for necessary technology and experts to help save the Thailand soccer team on Tues. 23 Oct. 2018. "Thank you for having me here so I can express the appreciation from our government and the Thai people," Vongkovit said at the General Assembly for the Jewish Federations of North America. She thanked Uzi Hanuni, Founder and CEO of Maxtech Networks Ltd for valuable communication technology that helped ensure the Thai boys' safety as she gave him a heartfelt hug. The "experts and essential communication device" played a significant role in the rescue. Hanuni remembered when he received the call to volunteer equipment and people, In July this year, I got a call telling me there was an emergency situation in Thailand. He knew he had to help because he made his technology for this very purpose. Maxtech Networks develops and deploys communication technology that does not require infrastructure and therefore can be used in "highly mobile and dynamic" situations. Vongkovit also thanked Israel for "its special navy team and specialized diving helmets to assist the operation."

**IDF UNCOVERS HEZBOLLAH POST ONE KM FROM BORDER, DEFYING UN RESOLUTION:** The IDF discovered a Hezbollah observation post that the Lebanese terror organization attempted to conceal as part of the operation of a fictitious environmental organization "Green Without Borders," the IDF announced Mon. 22 Oct. 2018. The post was intended to gather observations and forward information to Hezbollah. A senior Northern Command official said that the discovery represents a violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, and that the IDF "will not allow" such activity. In 2017 five positions were exposed. "This is an unforested area, the IDF officer explained, and the fake environmental organization only had military goals. Similarly, the Shi'ite organization prevents UN and UNIFIL forces from conducting investigations in the area, claiming that it is private land. From inside Israel we can see observation posts and sensor equipment," the official claimed. "Even if the outpost is unarmed, we know that its goals are not innocent. The objective is to gather intelligence on the border." The outpost that was discovered allows Hezbollah to observe IDF activity just one kilometer from the border. The IDF said that Hezbollah has violated UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which states that it is illegal for an armed group apart from the Lebanese Army to operate south of the Litani River.

**JORDAN CANCELS PART OF PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL:** A mass demonstration was held in Amman, the capital of Jordan, on Fri. 19 Oct. 2018 in which protesters demanded that the lands of Baqoura (Naharayim) and Ghumar (in the Arava region) be returned to Jordanian hands. The demonstrators called on the government to demand that these territories be returned to Jordanian sovereignty, and also called to cancel the peace agreement with Israel, expel the Israeli ambassador and close the Israeli embassy. Despite the fact that Jordan has a peace treaty with Israel, the country's parliament, which is made up mostly of Islamists, remains anti-Israel and its members have more than once called to annul the agreement. In a dramatic move, following the mass demonstration in Amman, Jordanian King Abdullah announced this week that he has decided not to extend a part in the 1994 Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty which leases regions of the Arava and Naharayim to Israel. These are areas which Israel ceded to Jordan in the 1994 agreement. However, now, 24 years after the agreement, Jordan officially announced that it would not be extending the lease.

**JORDAN DISMANTLING THE ISLE OF PEACE AT NAHARAYIM:** Although the land near Naharayim had belonged to Israel for decades, under the 1994 peace treaty it was transferred to Jordan and then, in a spirit of cooperation, leased back to Israel so that the farmers could continue cultivating their fields. Israeli visitors were warmly welcomed to the enclave inside the Kingdom of Jordan (which holds the remains

of a hydroelectric power station build by Jews in 1921). In 1997, a Jordanian soldier massacred seven Israeli schoolgirls on an outing at Naharayim. Following that event, the late King Hussein made an unprecedented trip to each of the victims' homes to express his personal sorrow and the grief of his nation. The area became known as the Isle of Peace. On Sun. 21 Oct. 2018 Jordan's King Abdullah II announced he would not be renewing the leasing agreement - dismantling the Isle of Peace. Israeli PM Netanyahu said relations with Jordan were still strong and that he would try to negotiate an extension to the existing arrangement. "This is not as dramatic as it sounds," said Shaul Mishal, a professor at Tel Aviv University. "Historically speaking, the relationship between Israel and Jordan has existed for many years, and, simply put, Jordan cannot exist without Israel."

**IRAN TERRORISTS LURK IN EMBASSIES:** A report from Iranian dissidents shows how the hard-line Islamic regime places terrorist operatives abroad under the cover of diplomacy. From Austria to Albania to Iraq, an expansionist Iran has turned embassies into terrorism planning sites to meddle in host governments and hunt down the opposition, according to the report by the National Council of Resistance of Iran. The report, "Iran Doubles Down on Terror and Turmoil," presents a big-picture assessment of Iran's foreign interventions in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen, and its terrorism-sponsored plots in Europe. "The mullahs' regime has funneled billions of dollars to finance its belligerent war agenda in the Middle East while the majority of Iran's people are living in poverty," the report states. "As the regime's officials have conceded, if the regime fails to inflame wars outside Iran's borders, it would have to fight for survival within Iran's borders. This is because external conflicts draw attention away from domestic crises." The National Council's 57-page report contains the tale of ruling Muslim mullahs on the march, unleashing abroad a number of state organs and paid militiamen to wage war. They include: the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Iran's dominant security apparatus; the Quds Force, a committed band of paramilitary foreign provocateurs; the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) and its operations arm, the Organization for Foreign Intelligence and Movements (OFIM). In Syria alone, the Revolutionary Guard controls as many as 100,000 troops. The Iranians have fought alongside forces of Syrian President Bashar Assad, who has killed thousands of innocent civilians to stay in power.

**SOME COUNCIL EXAMPLES OF IRANIAN "DIPLOMATS":** Assadollah Assadi: Stationed at the Iranian Embassy in Vienna as a "counselor," Assadi is an expert in explosives and played a "decisive role" in killing American forces in Iraq from 2004 to 2008. European authorities arrested him in July 2018 for masterminding a thwarted car-bomb attack on a huge gathering of National Council members near Paris. MOIS has made the Vienna embassy its hub for orchestrating attacks on dissidents. Gholamhossein Mohammadnia: The senior MOIS deputy became the Iranian ambassador to Albania in 2016. Why is Albania important? That same year the MEK completed relocating its headquarters from Iraq to Tirana, Albania. The National Council says the embassy has since planned several missions against its members. In March 2018 Albanian authorities arrested two Iranian agents who planned to set off a truck bomb at a Persian celebration, the report says. Reza Amiri Moghadam: The head of MOIS' operations unit, Moghadam has been deployed overseas as a "diplomat," allowing him to meet with the USA ambassador in Iraq in 2007. MOIS agents in Europe report to him in Tehran. Iraj Masjedi: The Iranian ambassador to Iraq is a veteran commander of the Quds Force, which orchestrated bombing attacks on USA troops. He is also a chief adviser to Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the Revolutionary Guard commander and dedicated USA foe. He controls various Shiite militias in Iraq, totaling 100,000. The Pentagon estimates that Iran helped anti-American Iraqis kill 500 USA troops with roadside bombs. Iran's biggest bet is on Syria, where it participated with Russia in the infamous 2016 rape of Aleppo, killing hundreds of civilians while conquering the besieged rebel stronghold. The council estimates that Iran has pumped as much as \$100 billion into Syria to build bases, pay troops and ship weapons.

**IRAN PROVIDING HEZBOLLAH WITH GPS-EQUIPPED WEAPONS:** American and western intelligence sources believe Iran has been increasing its shipments of advanced weaponry to Hezbollah, and

that the deliveries now include Global Positioning System (GPS) components to make previously unguided rockets into precision guided-missiles, increasing the threat to Israel. One of the Iranian flights arrived in Lebanon last week. Western intelligence sources said the Iranian cargo plane carried weapons components, including GPS devices to make precision-guided weapons in Iranian factories inside Lebanon. The United States and Israel, as well as other western intelligence agencies, have offered evidence that Iran has operated similar weapons factories in Syria and Yemen, in addition to Lebanon. The report comes just over a month after it was exposed that Fars Air Qeshm had smuggled arms into Lebanon, destined for Hezbollah and Iranian weapons factories. A week before that new satellite images were revealed showing that Iran is building a missile factory near Masyaf, Syria. Last month, at his address at the UN General Assembly, PM Binyamin Netanyahu shared photos of three Hezbollah “secret sites” near Beirut’s international airport, locations where the GPS components from Tehran were being assembled to turn the rockets into precision-guided missiles capable of striking deep inside Israel “within an accuracy of 10 meters.”

**HOW MANY MISSILES DOES HEZBOLLAH HAVE AIMED AT ISRAEL?** The Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah’s arsenal of missiles and rockets has grown to 150,000, Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan revealed Sunday, 21 Oct. 2018. Speaking at a conference hosted by the Jerusalem Institute for Strategic Studies, Erdan highlighted the increasing military presence of Iran and its allies along the Israeli border. Iran has worked in recent years to entrench itself militarily on Syrian soil, giving its Quds Force branch of the Revolutionary Guards a base of operations for attacks on Israel, including a February 2018 aerial attack on northern Israel. Tehran has also sponsored Hezbollah, which remains active in southern Lebanon along the Israeli border, Erdan said, revealing that Hezbollah’s arsenal is estimated to include more than 150,000 missiles and rockets. Erdan added that Iran – which maintains ties with Iraq’s Shi’ite-majority government – could draw Iraq into direct involvement in a future conflict with Israel. The Internal Security Minister said Iran’s strategy against Israel included opening up as many fronts as possible against the Jewish state for a potential future conflict. With more assets targeted at Israel, Iran hopes to deter Jerusalem from striking Iran’s nuclear facilities in a bid to prevent Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons, said Erdan.

**USA DOWNGRADES JERUSALEM DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO PALESTINIANS:** The USA last week downgraded the status of its main diplomatic mission to the Palestinians by placing it under the authority of the USA Embassy to Israel. The consulate had for years served as a de facto embassy to the Palestinians. The move was immediately denounced by the Palestinians and hailed by Israel. The step means that the Jerusalem consulate will no longer have a separate channel to Washington to report on Palestinian affairs and will no longer be run by a consul general with authorities tantamount to those of an ambassador. For decades, the Jerusalem consulate has operated differently than almost every other USA consulate around the world. Michael Oren, Israel's deputy minister for public diplomacy and a former Israeli ambassador to Washington, said: "A great day for Israel, Jerusalem, and the United States." The announcement "ends the last vestige of American support for the city's division. Israel is deeply grateful."

**HAMAS REJECTS EGYPTIAN DEMAND TO STOP GAZA BORDER PROTESTS:** Hamas has rejected an Egyptian request to halt the weekly demonstrations along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel, Palestinian sources said on Sat. 20 Oct. 2018. Egyptian intelligence officials last week also demanded that the protesters stay at least 500 meters away from the border. However, Hamas also rejected this demand. But it did appear to have called for restrained action at Friday’s weekly demonstration, which left the IDF and Hamas in a tense standoff, but failed to ignite a major escalation. The weekend events were expected to have a significant impact on whether Israel would launch a military operation in Gaza. But the low level of activity kept the situation’s status quo.

On Friday 19 Oct, 2018, 10,000 Palestinians again demonstrated near the border, burning tires and hurling stones and Molotov cocktails at IDF troops. There were three attempted infiltrations, in which Palestinians crossed into Israel and then went back to Gaza. Sources in the Gaza Strip said approximately 130 Palestinians

were injured by gunfire and tear-gas inhalation. The following evening, an IDF aircraft struck a cell of Palestinians that had launched incendiary aerial devices from the southern Gaza Strip into Israel that morning, which had ignited fires in the Be'eri and Shokeda forests near the border. Several Palestinians commented that the number of demonstrators was smaller than in previous weeks. "The Egyptians made it clear to Hamas that Israel was this time more serious than ever and would use unprecedented force if the violence continues along the border," said a Palestinian political analyst in the Gaza Strip. "Apparently, Hamas issued instructions to its supporters to keep a low profile."

**HAMAS WARNS ISRAEL: 'YOU WONT LEAVE YOUR BOMB SHELTERS':** "With your aggressiveness, you'll never leave the bomb shelters, proclaims a new video released by the Hamas terror group on Fri. 19 Oct. 2018. The warning was accompanied by scenes of Hamas terrorists readying missiles to launch into Israel. The video comes amidst a renewed round of saber-rattling between Israel and Hamas, after two rockets fired from Gaza destroyed a house in Beer Sheva last week. Another rocket, launched towards the sea, fell off the coast of Gush Dan. On Sat. 20 Oct. 2018, Israeli jets attacked a squad of Gazans whose fighters were launching incendiary balloons into Israel. There were no reported injuries, and the IDF Spokesperson's Unit blamed the balloon squad for causing two blazes in southern Israel. "There were additional incidents of explosive devices, grenades, crossover attempts and various terrorist attempts. IDF forces acted to thwart them," said an IDF Spokesperson. "This is not a situation we are prepared to accept, it is expected that terrorism will stop."

**ISRAEL'S UN AMBASSADOR : PALESTINIAN LEADER ABBAS HAS 'DONE NOTHING BUT INSPIRE RAMPANT CULTURE OF HATE':** Addressing the UN Security Council meeting on the Middle East on Thur. 18 Oct. 2018, Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon presented an official Palestinian Authority textbook that PA President Mahmoud Abbas had authorized for the current school year. "This textbook lists a number of so-called heroes - like Dalal Mughrabi - the terrorist responsible for a massacre that killed 38 people. This is Abbas' culture of hate - right in front of you. This is the reason Palestinian schoolchildren learn that it is better to kill a Jew than keep a job." Abbas "preaches tolerance in English and terror in Arabic. He has led his people down a path of self-destruction and misery, stealing their chance at a good life. He is the obstacle to peace. If you hope to see a better future between Israelis and Palestinians, you will join us in indicting Abbas. In this year's budget, Abbas has allocated \$355 million toward the pay-to-slay policy [paying salaries to terrorists and their families]. That's 7% of the total PA budget. Nearly half of every dollar the international community gives to the Palestinian people to build roads and schools is put in the pockets of those who murder Jews."

**PA ARRESTS PALESTINIAN – AMERICAN FOR PROPERTY SALE TO JEWS:** Palestinian Authority security forces have arrested a Palestinian-American citizen on suspicion of involvement in a real estate transaction with Jews in east Jerusalem. The man's family has notified the USA State Department of his arrest. Palestinian sources said that the man, a resident of Bethlehem, had worked for the PA Ministry for Local Government. "The 55-year-old man, who is a USA citizen, is being interrogated by the Palestinians security agencies in Ramallah for his role in the sale of an Arab-owned house in the Old City of Jerusalem to a Jewish organization," the sources revealed. They said the man was suspected of acting as a "solicitor" between the owner of the house and the Jewish organization that bought the house. USA government officials said they were aware of the arrest and expressed concern that he would be treated fairly. They said the State Department was in touch with the PA regarding the arrest. Last week, the Palestinian Islamic religious authorities in east Jerusalem reaffirmed a fatwa (religious decree) prohibiting Palestinians from selling their houses and lands to Israelis. Some Palestinians have called for imposing the death penalty on those who violate the ban.

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