

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update November 8, 2018 (30th Cheshvan, 5779)



For the Yachad Report Newsletter For November 2018

ISIS CLAIMS ATTACK ON CHRISTIAN PILGRIMS IN EGYPT: The ISIS jihadist group on Friday 2 Nov. 2018 claimed an attack on three buses carrying Christian pilgrims on their way to a remote desert monastery south of the Egyptian capital of Cairo. Seven people were killed in the attack and three others were wounded, said the Coptic Orthodox Church and the Interior Ministry. The local ISIS affiliate, which calls itself Sinai Province, claimed responsibility for the attack. ISIS has repeatedly stated its intention to target Egypt's Christians as punishment for their support of President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. Sisi wrote on his Twitter account that Friday's attack was designed to harm the "nation's solid fabric" and pledged to continue fighting terrorism. Christian sites of worship across Egypt have been repeatedly targeted in attacks claimed by ISIS, prompting the authorities to impose a state of emergency. Coptic Christians make up about 10% of Egypt's predominantly Sunni Muslim population and have been continuously targeted by jihadists in recent years. Friday's attack is the second to target pilgrims heading to St. Samuel the Confessor Monastery. The previous attack in May 2017 left nearly 30 people dead. The Interior Ministry said police were pursuing the attackers, who fled the scene after Friday's assault.

ARSONIST SETS FIRES AT 7 DIFFERENT JEWISH SITES IN BROOKLYN: The New York Police Department received reports of fires at seven different locations in the South Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn on Friday 2 Nov. 2018. According to City Council Members, the perpetrator set fires at local yeshivas and synagogues in the predominantly Hasidic community. "The crimes are being investigated by the Hate Crime Task Force and Fire Marshals," they said in a statement. "Tragically, it would seem these types of attacks are becoming all too common. Words and speech are as real as any weapon, and I again call on the current administration to unequivocally denounce every and all hate groups. We need to do everything in our power to deny hate safe harbor, whether in Pittsburgh, Charleston, or here in Williamsburg." According to Williamsburg News, the suspected perpetrator of the fires was arrested by NYPD, with the help of neighborhood watch group Williamsburg Shomrim. The arson took place around the time that graffiti reading "Kill all the Jews" was found daubed in Brooklyn's Union Temple. The discovery led to the cancellation of a political event that was supposed to take place there.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES RE-IMPOSITION OF IRAN SANCTIONS: The Trump administration on Friday 2. Nov. 2018 announced the restoration of the final round of sanctions on Iran that were lifted under the controversial 2015 Iran nuclear deal. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin announced the sanctions on Iran's shipping, financial and energy sectors. Particularly, the sanctions will target Iran's crude oil exports and will penalize countries that don't stop importing oil and foreign companies that do business with certain Iranian entities. But the administration has announced there would be eight significant reduction exemptions to countries that haven't completely eliminated oil imports from Iran. The waivers will last for a six-month period and will be re-evaluated after that time is up. At a UN Security Council meeting in Sept. 2018 Trump defended his administration's decision to pull out of the Obama-era deal, and blasted what he called a "horrible, one-sided deal that allowed Iran to continue its path toward a nuclear bomb and gave the regime a cash lifeline when they needed it the most. They were in big big trouble," he said. "They needed cash, we gave it to them." Trump said that in addition to the Nov. 2018 sanction, the USA will pursue additional sanctions, tougher than ever before, to counter the entire range of Iran's malign conduct. "Any individual or entity who fails to comply with these sanctions will face severe consequences," he warned.

IRAN'S ECONOMY HAS HIT A NEW LOW: Israel's PM Netanyahu thanked President Trump and the USA for implementing anti-Iran sanctions that were frozen as part of 2015's Iran nuclear deal. "For years I've called for fully renewing sanctions against Iran's murderous terror regime that endangers the entire world," said Netanyahu. "The effect of the initial sanctions is already being felt — the rial is at a low, Iran's economy is at a low and we're already seeing results on the ground. Thank you, President Trump, for the historic move. The sanctions are indeed coming." USA officials said Fri. 2 Nov. 2018 that Washington was adding 700 individuals and entities to its Iran blacklist and pressuring the global SWIFT banking network to cut off Tehran when expanded sanctions are put in place this week. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the sanctions were aimed at getting Tehran to halt its nuclear activities and what the USA says is broad support for "terrorism" in the region.

ANDREW GILLUM'S FLORIDA GOVERNOR BID MIRED IN ANTI-SEMITISM, LINKS TO RADICAL PALESTINIAN GROUP: Andrew Gillum may be ahead in the polls as he bids to become Florida's next governor, but the Tallahassee mayor's association with a radical far-left group associated with Palestinian terrorism has left his campaign mired in allegations of anti-Semitism and could yet prove costly with the state's 600,000 Jewish voters. Republican opponent Ron DeSantis has repeatedly brought up Gillum's relationship with Dream Defenders, a Florida-based group that claims to build "powerful, deep, local" organizations for "freedom and liberation" in the state, pointing to the anti-Israel activism, including the promotion of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against the Jewish state. Despite the accusations of anti-Semitism, Gillum has ignored the growing calls to disavow the group even as the largest Jewish weekly publication in the country, the Jewish Press, urged Florida's Jewish residents to vote for DeSantis, potentially swaying the election to the Republican. Dream Defenders and Gillum have an extensive history. He recently signed the group's "Freedom Pledge" promising not to accept money from private prisons. But by signing the pledge, he also endorsed the group's radical "Freedom Papers" that decry police and prisons as "racist".

KAVANAUGH ACCUSER REFERRED TO DOJ AFTER ADMITTING SHE LIED: The Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman is recommending a criminal probe against a woman who made sexual assault allegations against Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh before his Senate confirmation vote. Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley referred Judy Munro-Leighton to the Department of Justice (DOJ) on 2 Nov. 2018 after his office said she made "materially false statements" and admitted to falsely accusing Kavanaugh. "Under questioning by Committee investigators, Ms. Munro-Leighton admitted, contrary to her prior claims, that she had not been sexually assaulted by Judge Kavanaugh and was not the author of the original 'Jane Doe' letter" accusing Kavanaugh, Grassley's office said in the letter to the Department of Justice. "When

directly asked by Committee investigators if she was, as she had claimed, the ‘Jane Doe’ from Oceanside California who had sent the letter to Senator Kamala Harris, she admitted: ‘No, no, no. I did that as a way to grab attention.’ “Regarding the false sexual assault allegation she made via her email to the Committee, she said: ‘I was angry, and I sent it out.’ When asked by Committee investigators whether she had ever met Judge Kavanaugh, she said: ‘Oh Lord, no.’” USA President Donald Trump subsequently commented on the news in a tweet. "A vicious accuser of Justice Kavanaugh has just admitted that she was lying, her story was totally made up, or FAKE! Can you imagine if he didn't become a Justice of the Supreme Court because of her disgusting False Statements. What about the others? Where are the Dems on this?" he asked.

BEN & JERRY’S RESPONDS TO CRITICISM OF PARTNERING WITH LINDA SARSOUR OF THE WOMEN’S MARCH: Last week, Ben & Jerry’s unveiled their newest flavor “pecan resist,” and they have described it as a campaign dedicated to [championing] those fighting to create a more just and equitable nation for us all.” The flavor is chocolate ice cream with white and dark fudge chunks, pecans, walnuts & fudge-covered almonds. The roll out of the ice cream includes a plan to promote “those who are leading the resistance to the current administration’s regressive agenda” and they are “celebrating the activists who are continuing to resist oppression, harmful environmental practices and injustice.” The activist organizations they are partnering with are Color of Change, Honor the Earth, Neta, and the Women’s March. The company has faced some particular criticism, however, for their partnership with the Women’s March, which is led by Linda Sarsour. Sarsour is an anti-Israel activist and some of her comments have been considered anti-Semitic. About a year ago, she blamed “the Jewish media” for her controversial reputation. She — along with other Women’s March leaders — has also been criticized for her work with Nation of Islam leader and unabashed anti-Semite Louis Farrakhan who among other things has compared the Jewish People To “termites”. After Ben & Jerry’s faced backlash for their partnership with Sarsour, they tweeted, “Thanks for the feedback. We may not agree on everything, but the work that Linda has done to promote women’s rights is undeniably important and we are proud to join her in that effort.”

NETANYAHU: ISRAEL’S POSITION IS IMPROVING: PM Binyamin Netanyahu flew to Bulgaria on Thur. 1 Nov. 2018 to participate in a forum comprised of several European leaders. Before boarding the plane, Netanyahu said "I'm heading out now to engage in policy at the highest levels. I will meet my good friends the prime ministers of Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and the president of Serbia. Netanyahu underscored the attempt to alter the anti-Israel conduct of the European Union. "This is a group of countries that I want to advance my policy; to change the hypocritical and hostile approach of the EU. This is a process that will take time but I believe in setting goals and striving towards them systematically. I believe that this too we will achieve in time. This is an important matter for the State of Israel, whose position is rising in the world."

IN FIRST, NETANYAHU ATTENDS EUROPE’S CRAIOVA FORUM: Israel’s PM Netanyahu was present at the Craiova Forum, which is attended by the elected leaders of Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and Greece. This is the first time a foreign leader has attended the forum. Earlier, Netanyahu held bilateral meetings with Bulgarian PM Viko Borisov, Romanian PM Viorica Dăncilă, Serbian President Alexander Vucic and Greek PM Alex Tsipras. At the end of the bilateral meetings, Netanyahu said that "ach of them assured me that they will improve their votes on matters that concern us both in the European Union and the UN. Everyone wants us to advance the gas pipeline from Leviathan to Europe and the Balkans. They very much want Israeli gas, they very much want Israeli technology and they very much want Israel's friendship. That's a good sign. "

BRAZIL TO MOVE EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM: Brazil intends to move its embassy to Jerusalem, the country's president-elect Jair Bolsonaro announced on his Facebook page on Thur. 1 Nov. 2018, wasting no time in declaring intent to implement one of his campaign pledges. Bolsonaro is a populist, ultra-conservative, Evangelical Christian whose victory last week signified a stunning shift in the direction of Brazil which has been ruled for the last 15 years by the far-left Workers Party. It also represents a tectonic shift in the country's

relationship with Israel. In a media interview on 1 Nov. 2018 Bolsonaro repeated his pledge to move the embassy: "Israel is a sovereign state. If you decide on your capital city, we will act in accordance. When I was asked during the campaign if I'll relocate the embassy when I was president, I said yes, and that you're the ones who decide on the capital of Israel, not other people," he said.

He also said during the campaign that he would close the Palestinian Embassy in Brasilia. Asked about this in the interview, he said: "As for the Palestinian Embassy, it was built too close to the presidential palace. No embassy can be so close to the presidential palace, so we intend to move it. There's no other way, in my opinion. Other than that, Palestine first needs to be a state to have the right to an embassy." Bolsonaro also said that Israel can now "count on having our vote in the UN. I know that often the vote is almost symbolic, but it helps to define the position a country intends to take. Rest assured that you can depend on our vote in the UN on almost all the issues having to do with Israel."

NETANYAHU HAILS BRAZIL'S EMBASSY RELOCATION: PM Binyamin Netanyahu on Thur. 1 Oct. 2018 hailed Brazilian president-elect Jair Bolsonaro's plan to move his country's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem: "I congratulate my friend Brazilian President-Elect, Jair Bolsonaro, for his intention to move the Brazilian Embassy to Jerusalem, a historic, correct and exciting step!" Bolsonaro, who has been dubbed "the Trump of Brazil", was elected in a runoff defeating Workers' Party candidate Fernando Haddad by a ten-point margin, 55% to 45%. Education Minister Naftali Bennett also praised Bolsonaro: "I congratulate Brazil's President-elect's decision to move their embassy to Jerusalem," said Bennett. International recognition of Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel and the Jewish people is a just and moral step towards ending the conflict." The Brazilian move would be following in the footsteps of the USA and Guatemala.

AMID PITTSBURGH FUNERALS, SYNAGOGUE MASSACRE SUSPECT PLEADS NOT GUILTY: Appearing defiant and swaggering, the man charged with killing 11 worshipers in a Pittsburgh synagogue, pleaded not guilty on Thur. 1 Nov. 2018 in a federal court as the Jewish community buried three more of the dead. Robert Bowers, 46, an avowed anti-Semite, was brought before Judge Robert Mitchell in USA District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, dressed in a red jumpsuit with a bandaged left arm. He spoke little, other than to say he understood the charges against him and that some of them could result in the death penalty, then entered a plea of not guilty. He also requested a jury trial. Bowers was injured in a shootout with police during the massacre at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood in what is believed to be the worst anti-Semitic attack in recent USA history. Prosecutors have said they will seek the death penalty against Bowers. He is accused of bursting into the synagogue and opening fire with a semi-automatic rifle and three pistols in the midst of the Sabbath prayer service, shouting, "All Jews must die." The case against Bowers will be prosecuted first in federal court, with the USA Justice Department saying it was in the national interest to protect freedom of religion, which is guaranteed under the USA Constitution. Bowers also faces state charges, including 11 counts of criminal homicide and 13 counts of ethnic intimidation. Four police officers were wounded before the suspect was shot by police and surrendered.

UK POLICE PROBE LABOUR PARTY ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES: British police announced on Friday 2 Nov. 2018 they were investigating alleged "anti-Semitic hate crimes" within the main opposition Labour Party after receiving an internal dossier. The probe comes two months after a leaked dossier was handed to Britain's top police officer Cressida Dick at a national talk radio station, LBC. Police are seeking early advice from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), England's state prosecutors who decide on whether to bring criminal charges once an investigation is complete. LBC had received a dossier detailing 45 cases involving messages posted by Labour party members on social media. Labour, led by veteran socialist Jeremy Corbyn, said they had not been contacted by the police but stood ready to co-operate with the investigation. "The Labour Party has a robust system for investigating complaints of alleged breaches of Labour Party rules by its members," a spokesman said. "Where someone feels they have been a victim of crime, they should report it to the police."

ISRAEL INTRODUCES NEW FARMING AND WATER TECHNOLOGY TO HANOI: The Israeli embassy has introduced new technology in Hanoi. The "vertical rice field" was developed by Israel-based Vertical Field that designs and builds modular, lush, green vertical gardens and fields. An exhibition celebrating the 25th anniversary of Vietnam-Israel diplomatic relations last week featured a vertical rice field covering 100 square meters that combined the deployment of soil-based technology for water conservation and plant nutrition. Also displayed was Israeli technology developed by Watergen that provides a low-cost, abundant and renewable source of fresh and clean drinking water by extracting it directly from the atmosphere.

ISRAEL DECLARES PALESTINE VIPER AS ITS NATIONAL SNAKE: Israel declared as its national snake a species that is called Palestine viper in English and Latin. The species was declared Israel's official snake on Thur. 1 Nov. 2018 by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and Israel Nature and Parks Authority after an online vote. Separately, last week, a snake catcher removed a coin-marked snake — a non-venomous species which mimics the viper for defensive purposes and also preys on the viper — from the cracks of the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The snake caused a panic when worshipers saw it emerging from between the ancient stones of the holy site. Some 300 people are bitten by the Palestine Viper annually in Israel, Judea & Samaria, though deaths are extremely rare thanks to the availability of a serum developed by Israel. Each dose costs thousands of dollars to produce. Measuring up to 5 feet, the Palestinian Viper is responsible for an overwhelming majority of venomous snake bites in Israel, which has 42 species of snakes including nine venomous ones. In 2008, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority declared the Hoopoe as Israel's national bird following a similar vote.

TRUMPS PAY TRIBUTE AT SYNAGOGUE WHERE 11 WERE FATALLY SHOT: President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump paid homage on 30 Oct. 2018 to each of the 11 people who were slain in the worst instance of anti-Semitic violence in American history. As the Trumps placed their tributes outside the Tree of Life Synagogue, protesters nearby shouted that the president was not welcome. The emotional, dissonant scene reflected the increasingly divided nation that Trump leads, one gripped by a week of political violence and hate and hurtling toward contentious midterm elections that could alter the path of a presidency. On their arrival in Pittsburgh, the Trumps entered the vestibule of the synagogue, where they lit candles for each victim before stepping outside. Shouts of "Words matter!" and "Trump, go home!" could be heard from demonstrators gathered not far from where a gunman had opened fire on Sat. 27 Oct. 2018. Rabbi Jeffrey Myers, who had been conducting services when the shots rang out, gestured at the white Star of David posted for each victim. At each, the president placed a stone, a Jewish burial tradition, while the first lady added a flower. They were trailed by first daughter Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, who are Jewish.

BENNETT: USING ANTI-SEMITIC MASSACRE TO ATTACK TRUMP IS UNFAIR: Jewish Education Minister Naftali Bennett on 30 Oct. 2018 criticized those who have been using the massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh to attack USA President Donald Trump. "As Israel's Minister of Diaspora, I came to Pittsburgh to offer the State of Israel's support and sympathy to the Jewish community and all the American people," wrote Bennett. "This I did. Our hearts and prayers are with the families of the deceased, the injured and the community as a whole. Words cannot express our appreciation to the brave police officers who put their lives on the line to defend the innocent," he continued. "Yet some people are using this horrific anti-Semitic act to attack President Trump. This is unfair and wrong. President Trump is a true friend of the State of Israel and to the Jewish people. With President Trump we never have to worry if he has our backs. He has delivered on every promise. This is something we will never forget. He is fighting terror worldwide including Israel's greatest enemy, the murderous regime of Tehran," Bennett said. "He recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and kept his promise to move the embassy there. His condemnation of anti-Semitism — when he said he would destroy those who seek to destroy the Jewish people — was the strongest condemnation of anti-Semitism that I have ever heard from a politician outside the State of Israel. There is no

excuse for anti-Semitism. Anti-Semites do not ask if you are a Republican or Democrat. They do not ask if you are Orthodox, Conservative, or Reform. They only act because of their hatred of Jews," Bennett pointed out. "We will continue to stand by our brothers and sisters," he concluded.

DERMER: 'ANTI-SEMITISM DIDN'T START WITH TRUMP': Israeli Ambassador to the USA, Ron Dermer, contended that the uptick in anti-Semitic attacks is not the fault of President Trump. In an interview with Fox News on 28 Oct. 2018, Ambassador Dermer responded to claims that president Trump is responsible for the increase in anti-Semitic attacks in America in general and for the massacre in Pittsburgh in particular. The Ambassador's initial reaction was that people should study history; "Anti-Semitism did not begin in 2016. It's been going on for many centuries." Dermer also pointed out that in 2015 and 2014, before Trump was elected, half of religious hate crimes targeted Jews. The Ambassador commended President Trump on his public condemnation of anti-Semitism and made note of the fact that Trump supporters cheered that condemnation robustly. "That should tell people that these are the actions of the extremes. It could be Neo Nazis on the right; it could be militant Islamists on the left. Anti-Semitism is not a product of one side of the political spectrum".

ISRAEL'S MOSSAD FOILS IRANIAN ASSASSINATION PLOT IN DENMARK: Israeli intelligence services aided Denmark in foiling a recent assassination attempt by Iranian agents, Israeli media outlets reported Wed. 31 Oct. 2018. Denmark announced that it had recalled its ambassador to Iran, after it accused Tehran of plotting to assassinate three Iranian nationals residing in Denmark. "I have decided to recall Denmark's ambassador in Tehran for consultations. Denmark can in no way accept that people with ties to Iran's intelligence service plot attacks against people in Denmark," Danish Foreign Minister Anders Samuelsen told reporters. "It is the Iranian government, it is the Iranian state that is behind" the plot, Samuelsen added. A day later, Israeli media outlets reported that Israel's Mossad agency had played a key role in foiling the Iranian assassination plot, a senior Israeli official said. The official claimed that the Mossad provided Danish security services with information which led to the arrest of a member of the suspected Iranian terror cell operating in Scandinavia. Prior to Samuelsen's announcement, the head of Denmark's intelligence service PET, Finn Borch Andersen, said his agency believed the Iranian intelligence service "was planning an attack in Denmark" against three Iranians suspected of belonging to the Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahvaz.

The plot joins other Iranian-backed attacks and incidents in Europe. On 26 Oct. 2018, France expelled an Iranian diplomat over a plot in June 2018 to attack an opposition rally. In connection to the same case Germany has backed the extradition of Assadollah Assadi, an Iranian diplomat based in Austria and detained in Germany. In the complex June plot a bomb was supposed to be delivered to a couple who would bomb the opposition event in France. The case spans Austria, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany and France. In November 2017 an activist named Ahmad Mola Nissi from ASMLA was assassinated in Holland. The latest arrest in Denmark comes as USA sanctions are about to increase on 4 Nov. 2018. Pompeo congratulated Denmark on its arrest. "For nearly 40 years, Europe has been the target of Iran-sponsored terrorist attacks. We call on our allies and partners to confront the full range of Iran's threats to peace and security," the USA Secretary of State tweeted.

ABU DHABI CROWN PRINCE MEETS EVANGELICAL DELEGATION: In another sign of growing ties between Israel and the Gulf, Mohammed Bin Zayed, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, hosted a delegation of Evangelical Christians on 29 Oct. 2018 led by a prominent pro-Israel advocate who also lives in the Jewish state. It was the first meeting of its kind for Bin Zayed who is also the deputy supreme commander of the United Arab Emirates' armed forces. The delegation was led by Joel Rosenberg, a well-known Evangelical activist and author who lives in Israel. The meeting, initially scheduled for 30 minutes lasted two hours. Bin Zayed's interest in meeting Rosenberg is part of a trend among Arab leaders who are seeking for ways to grow close to USA President Donald Trump and believe the key might be through Evangelical Christians,

who are overwhelmingly Republican and supportive of the current administration. Last year, Rosenberg led a similar delegation to Cairo where the group met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. Rosenberg's visit to Abu Dhabi comes amid a warming of ties between Israel and moderate Sunni Arab states in the Persian Gulf.

PLO 'SUSPENDS' RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL: The Palestinian Authority's Central News Agency (Wafa) reported this week that the PLO Central Committee in Ramallah had decided to cancel recognition of Israel until it recognized a Palestinian state on the 1967 border with eastern Jerusalem as its capital. The PLO's Central Council, headed by PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas, stated that "this decision was made in light of Israel's continued denial of the signed agreements." It was also decided to revoke the validity of the Oslo Accords. The Council additionally made a decision to cease security coordination with Israel in all its aspects, economic separation and taking practical steps to realize the independence of the sovereign state of Palestine. The decision made on Monday night 29 Oct. 2018 at the end of the two-day meeting in Ramallah, is non-binding. A committee will now be created to examine the recommendation, which would also need the approval of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. The Palestinian Authority has never accepted the legitimacy of Israel as a Jewish State, and the PLO charter continues to reject the existence of the State of Israel despite the provision of such recognition in the Oslo Accords. Israeli Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon told Army Radio, "This is a big mistake. Over the last year, Ramallah has become more and more extreme and is torpedoing any chance of an agreement." Yesh Atid party chairman Yair Lapid called the PLO decision a "bad joke." "When the Palestinians decide to recognize reality, they are more than welcome to give us a call." Education Minister Naftali Bennett responded to the PLO's announcement by stating: "The Palestinians have never been serious about recognizing Israel. They have always been planning to destroy Israel piece by piece and throw the Jews out of our land. The charade has ended. They have shown their true colors - the Palestinians are not interested in peace and never have been."

ISRAEL WINS SECOND JUDO GOLD IN ABU DHABI, 'HATIKVA' PLAYS AGAIN: Hatikva was heard again in Abu Dhabi as Israeli judoka Peter Paltchik won gold in the under 100 kg weight category on Mon. 29 Oct. 2018. Paltchik defeated Azerbaijani judoka Elmar Gasimov in the finals. The 26-year-old judoka won his first gold medal at the "Grand Prix Cancun" in June 2017. He also won a bronze medal in the 2018 European Judo Championships that was held in Tel Aviv in April 2018. Judoka Sagi Muki also won gold on Sun 28 Oct. 2018 in the under 81 kg weight category. Israel's national anthem "Hatikva" was played, even though sport event organizers in the Gulf have made Israel's participation conditional on it not displaying national symbols. Israel has won five medals at the Abu Dhabi Grand Slam 2018. For the second time this week, Israel's Hatikva anthem was played in the arena.



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