

# ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update November 21, 2018*** ***(13<sup>th</sup> Kislev, 5779)***



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

**USA VOTES NO ON ANTI-ISRAEL UN RESOLUTION:** The USA on Friday 16 Nov. 2018 voted against an annual resolution condemning the “occupation” of the Golan Heights -- a change from the USA decision to abstain in 2017-- and ripped into the body’s anti-Israel bias, part of an increasingly pro-Israel stance under the Trump administration. Ambassador Nikki Haley said: "The United States will no longer abstain when the United Nations engages in its useless annual vote on the Golan Heights. If this resolution ever made sense, it surely does not today. The resolution is plainly biased against Israel. Further, the atrocities the Syrian regime continues to commit prove its lack of fitness to govern anyone. The destructive influence of the Iranian regime inside Syria presents major threats to international security. ISIS and other terrorist groups remain in Syria. And this resolution does nothing to bring any parties closer to a peace agreement." USA Politica 1 Advisor Samantha Sutton, in remarks to the committee on Friday, said that UN resolutions frequently blame Israel for problems in the region, without mentioning terrorist acts by Hamas. She also urged countries to focus on issues of genuine urgency in the region rather than “grandstanding against Israel.” Israeli Ambassador Danny Danon welcomed the USA move and called it another testament to the strong cooperation between the two countries. The USA does not recognize Israel’s claim to the territory but USA Ambassador to Israel David Friedman said in Sept. 2018 that he could not imagine a situation where it is returned to Syria.

**GOLAN HEIGHTS: A BRIEF REVIEW:** 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. While Syrian ground forces have been severely degraded in the recent civil war, the eventual recovery of the Syrian army must be anticipated. Massive Russian arms transfers to the Syrian armed forces will likely provide the basis for the renewal of Syrian military power. A new focus of concern involves the role of Iran in converting Syria into a satellite state that will host Iranian forces and Shiite proxy militias, some of which have been integrated into the Syrian army in its campaign to take control of south Syria.

**HAMAS LEADER: DON'T TEST US AGAIN:** Just days after agreeing to a ceasefire with Israel, Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar on Friday 16 Nov. 2018 issued threats against the Jewish state. Speaking at a memorial service for Hamas terrorists who were killed during the clash with Israeli soldiers last week which started the latest escalation, Sinwar threatened to kidnap Israeli soldiers and claimed that his organization was holding weapons that were seized during the clash in Gaza on Sunday 11 Nov. 2018. "I advise Israel not to try and test us again. This time you did not have a lot of casualties and you managed to rescue your special forces," Sinwar said, according to Channel 10 News. "You should not try again, because next time you will have to release thousands of prisoners," he warned. "Listen Netanyahu, and listen whoever will receive the defense portfolio. Anyone who tests Gaza will find death and poison. If we are attacked, we will let the barrage on Tel Aviv do the talking. Our missiles are more accurate, have a longer range and carry more explosives than before."

**JEWISH STATE APPOINTS CHRISTIAN ENVOY TO MUSLIM COUNTRY:** Israel's Foreign Ministry announced the appointment of George Deek as Israel's next Ambassador to Azerbaijan, a Muslim-majority country on Thur. 15 Nov. 2018, making him Israel's first ever Christian Arab ambassador. "We are proud of his appointment, which perfectly symbolizes the integration of Israelis from different backgrounds in the representation of the state," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon. Azerbaijan, a Muslim-majority country, is important for Israel, as it sits on Iran's border and supplies some 40% of Israel's oil. It also is one of Israel's largest arms markets.

**IRANIAN WORKERS PROTEST AGAINST GOVERNMENT AS USA SANCTIONS TAKE ITS TOLL:** Workers at the Haft Tapeh sugarcane factory in Shush, Iran, unhappy with unpaid, overdue wages, protested on 16 Nov. 2018 during Friday prayers at a city mosque. The enraged employees interrupted prayers and chanted, "death to the oppressor; peace be upon the worker," according to videos posted to social media. The workers have been on strike for 12 days over months of unpaid wages, according to Radio Farda. Other Iranian cities and towns have recently seen protests erupting during Friday prayers, Farda reported. These protests have focused not only on wages, but also on the lack of clean drinking water and unequal water distribution. The protests come as Iran's economy has been hard-hit by USA sanctions, which were reimposed on 5 November 2018. "Our enemy is right here; they lie saying it's America," the protesters chanted during Friday's prayer. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei claims that the unrest in the labor force is a "foreign plot" to bring down the Iranian government.

**ILHAN OMAR NOW SUPPORTS BDS AFTER ELECTIONS:** Ilhan Omar, the newly elected congresswoman from Minnesota, said after being elected that she supported the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement targeting Israel, after saying during her campaign that it was "counteractive" and prevents dialogue. Omar's comment came in response to a website called Muslim Girl, which pressed her on her appearance during the campaign at a Minneapolis area synagogue, in which she had said that BDS "stops the dialogue" and is "counteractive" to achieving a two-state outcome. Like many other Democrats, she noted her opposition to anti-BDS legislation but framed it as a free-speech issue. "Ilhan believes in and supports the BDS movement, and has fought to make sure people's right to support it isn't criminalized," her campaign told Muslim Girl after the election. TC Jewfolk, the local Jewish news website which originally reported her ostensible rejection of BDS, pressed her on the issue after the Muslim Girl statement in text messages which it posted on Twitter. Omar insisted there was no contradiction. "I believe and support the BDS movement and have fought to make sure people's right to support it isn't criminalized," she said. "I do, however, have reservations on the effectiveness of the movement in accomplishing a lasting solution, which is what I said at the forum."

The TC Jewfolk reporter pressed her further, asking Omar why she didn't simply answer "yes or no" when asked about the issue at the synagogue forum for candidates. "It was a bigger issue and she didn't ask for a 'yes or no' answer," Omar replied, referring to the person who posed the question. Omar said her position during the campaign was not "politically expedient." Omar is one of the first two Muslim women elected to

Congress. The other Muslim woman Rashida Tlaib of the Detroit area, also backs BDS. Omar has faced controversy and accusations of anti-Semitism for spreading conspiracy theories about the State of Israel and Zionists. In 2012 she tweeted: "Israel has hypnotized the world, may Allah awaken the people and help them see the evil doings of Israel."

**FIGHTING THE GLOBAL DIABETES EPIDEMIC WITH ISRAELI INNOVATIONS:** Some 425 million adults worldwide are living with diabetes, according to the International Diabetes Federation. While there is currently no cure for either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, a range of breakthrough Israeli medical technologies is changing the rules of the game for diabetics: Jerusalem-based Oramed Pharmaceuticals has developed an innovative oral insulin capsule that transforms injectable treatments into oral therapies. The capsules, for both types of diabetes, are currently in advanced Food and Drug Administration clinical trials. "We have something that can help hundreds of millions of people around the world," said Oramed CEO and cofounder Nadav Kidron. Kidron grew up in a home where diabetes was always part of the conversation. His mother, Miriam, worked for almost 20 years in the Diabetes Unit at Hadassah-Hebrew University. Together with Nobel Prize winner Prof. Avram Hershko, they developed a previously-unimaginable solution that enables proteins, such as insulin, to be delivered orally and intact into the liver – the organ that regulates the secretion of insulin into the bloodstream. "Rather than treating excessive glucose in the blood, we shut off production from the source," explained Kidron. Oral administration of current injection-only therapies for conditions including diabetes also offers clear benefits for patient lifestyles. "There should be a world that will push back the point where patients are insulin-dependent, which is also far more expensive. The dream is to see smiling kids and adults because they can have a better lifestyle which can cost less."

**ISRAELI HANDHELD DEVICE KILLS HEAD LICE WITH ULTRASONIC WAVES:** Israeli start-up ParaSonic has developed a hand-held device that uses ultrasound technology to kill head lice and their eggs in a treatment that takes minutes. Pesticide shampoos and fine-tooth combs are the only current treatments. The new device sends extremely low-intensity ultrasonic waves through the hair, said Michael Kardosh, ParaSonic VP for Technology. "We found a single frequency that applies to both the eggs and the lice." The company says the ultrasound technology is safe for use with children and it has already been approved for use in the USA. Its trials show 95% efficiency and the product will launch in mid-2019.

**IDF LEVELS GAZA HIGH RISE BUILDINGS IN AGGRESSIVE RESPONSE:** A senior Israeli Air Force official said Israel's response in Gaza to this week's wave of rocket and mortar attacks has been aggressive, with airstrikes targeting key terror centers in the Strip, yet managing to avoid significant casualties in densely-populated urban areas. "These attacks are very different from what we did in the past," the officer said, "both in terms of quantity and quality of the targets. The level of targets being hit is much higher – six and seven-story buildings in the heart of Gaza City. And the attacks on them are having a very significant effect on the other side." The officer compared the airstrikes to Israel's responses to Hamas provocations during the summer of 2014, dubbed Operation Protective Edge. "During the entire seven-week Operation Protective Edge, we hit two targets like these. Last night [Mon. 12 Nov. 2018] alone we hit four. Our operations are very, very aggressive. We don't want to be in a situation where we're playing 'ping pong' back and forth over every rocket attack. We are making the enemy pay a very heavy price". The IDF declared earlier on Tue. 13 Nov. 2018 that the IAF had hit 150 terror targets across the Gaza Strip within 120 minutes. "We hit dozens of targets in under two hours, including four 'super targets' – multi-story buildings in the heart of the city. We did all this without killing anyone, and we made sure that the surrounding buildings were evacuated." The IDF killed two terrorists Tue. morning, 13 Nov. 2018 including one involved in firing rockets at Israel, and a second who had infiltrated into Israeli territory. Four others were killed during Israel's retaliatory strikes overnight. *(Israel with Hamas agreed to a ceasefire on Tue. evening 13 Nov. 2018, as a result of mediation efforts by Egypt and the UN after two days of fighting that saw close to 500 rockets fired from Gaza at Israel and heavy IDF bombardments in the Strip in retaliation. The ceasefire was approved by PM Benjamin Netanyahu despite strong opposition from some members of his Security Cabinet. Most*

*likely this is simply another "lull" rather than a "ceasefire" that Hamas seldom observes for more than a few hours or days.)*

**SDEROT MAYOR: THESE IMAGINARY CEASE FIRES HAVE NO PURPOSE:** Sderot Mayor Alon Davidi commented on Tue. night 13 Nov. 2018 on the ceasefire that was agreed upon in southern Israel, after hundreds of rockets and mortars were fired by Gaza terrorists towards communities and cities in the south. "My feeling is unchanged, because only a large-scale military operation like Protective Edge will bring with it the quiet we aspire to". Davidi also discussed the protest of residents of the Gaza envelope against the ceasefire. "The feelings of frustration and disappointment of the residents of the city are understandable to us and it is difficult not to identify with them. My statement is clear and unequivocal - we must not allow Hamas and the terrorist organizations to dictate the agenda to us. No more!" he stressed. "I see first and foremost all our residents, who have been victims of terror from Gaza for 18 years. These imaginary ceasefires have no purpose, and this has already been proven. I hope for a quiet night and quiet days for us all," said Davidi. Gaza terrorists fired nearly 500 rockets and mortars toward southern Israel starting on Sun. night 11 Nov. 2018 and until Tue. afternoon 13 Nov. 2018. One person was killed and over 50 injured from rocket and mortar strikes, and a number of private homes were struck during the onslaught. Later Tue.13 Nov. 2018, Hamas confirmed a report that an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire had been reached, but made it clear that the organization would be obligated to it only as long as the "Zionist enemy" fulfilled its commitment to the ceasefire.

**GAZA'S ISLAMIST RULERS WILL NOT ALLOW QUIET TO PREVAIL:** Israel has sought to avoid a deeper conflict in Gaza. It even allowed the transfer to Gaza of \$15 million in Qatari cash to relieve the economic pressure there. Israel withdrew its army and uprooted the 8,000 Jewish civilians who lived in Gaza in 2005. But Hamas wants all the land from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River. The riots and the tunneling and the rocket fire amount to extortion. But a murderous extortionist cannot be bought off. Sooner or later, Hamas must be faced down. And in the battle between a sovereign state that is obligated to ensure security for its citizens, and a ruthless, cynical terrorist organization, backed by Iran and committed to Israel's destruction, there can and must be only one winner.

**AMBASSADOR DANNY DANON PLAYS 'RED ALERT' SIREN AT THE UN:** Before Tuesday's 13 Nov. 2018, UN Security Council debate on the escalation in southern Israel, Danny Danon, Israel's ambassador to the UN, addressed the media. "Every time Hamas shoots a rocket - children at school, adults at work, families all over the country hear this," Danon said to the piercing sound of the, "Red Alert" air raid siren playing from a phone. "Think of the children running fearfully into bomb shelters," he continued. "Certain morally bankrupt members of the Security Council will jump to blame Israel, and others who pretend to be objective will call for restraint on both sides. But let me be clear: there is no 'both sides'. There is Hamas that attacks and fires over 460 missiles at civilians, and there is Israel that protects its people. The Security Council must condemn Hamas for its aggressive assault," the ambassador added. In a letter to the Council's members, the ambassador noted that "after a day of rocket barrages, there is no room for any other definition of Hamas except that of terrorist organization. To the world it presents its civilians as victims, but then uses them as human shields." Danon added that "Israel cooperated with all international bodies, including the UN, but the aggressive escalation from Gaza indicates that there are elements pushing for another round of violence that will cause destruction and losses within the Gaza Strip."

**JEWISH BUSINESSMAN CONFIRMED AS TUNISIA'S TOURISM MINISTER:** The Tunisian parliament on Mon. 12 Nov. 2018 approved a cabinet reshuffle proposed by PM Youssef Chahed, which includes a Jewish businessman as minister of tourism. The approval is widely seen in Tunisia as a victory for Chahed over his political opponents, including his party Nidaa Tounes, who demanded that he step down because of his government's failure to revive the economy. Chahed named 10 new ministers last week in a cabinet reshuffle he hopes will inject fresh blood into his government. Rene Trabelsi, in becoming minister of

tourism in the Muslim Arab country, became only the third member of the small minority of 2,000 Jews to enter a cabinet since Tunisia's independence in 1956. Lawmakers voted to approve the reshuffle, giving Chahed support to push on with economic reforms. Since 2011, Tunisia's economy has been in crisis and nine cabinets have failed to resolve economic problems, including high inflation and unemployment. Tunisia's government has been showcasing its Jewish heritage sites, including Djerba, whose ancient synagogue was on Tunis' list last year for locales put forth for recognition as world heritage sites by the UN. In Sept. 2018, the Tunisian city of Sousse decided to name four streets for local prominent Jews. While local Jews have been honored, the country does not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

**FRANCE ROCKED BY 69% RISE IN ANTI-SEMITISM AS ACTS BECOME 'RELENTLESS' PM WARNS:** After a two-year drop, France has been hit by a staggering 69% rise in anti-Semitic incidents in the past nine months, said PM Edouard Philippe. The French prime minister used the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the night of 9 November 1938, when Jews were "systematically" targeted by the Nazis, to warn about the "relentless" acts of anti-Semitism taking place in his country. "We are very far from being finished with anti-Semitism," Philippe said on his Facebook page, branding the number of acts perpetrated against Jews "relentless." Despite seeing a drop in offences in the past two years, France has in the past nine months been hit by a 69% increase, he said. "Every aggression perpetrated against one of our citizens because they are Jewish echoes like the breaking of new crystal," Philippe said, before outlining government plans to crack down on the rise in anti-Jewish sentiment. He said the government will be testing a group of magistrates and investigators to help tackle the issue. A national team will also be mobilized in schools from mid-November to aid teachers in fending off growing anti-Semitism, while there will also be a legislative process aimed at the withdrawal of hateful content online. According to French news outlet France24, Jews in France make up less than one percent of the population, and yet they were victims of 40% of crime registered as racially or religiously motivated in 2017.



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