

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update December 20, 2018 ***(12th Tevet, 5779)***



For the Yachad Report Newsletter For December 2018

RUSSIA WARNS LEBANON OVER VIOLATIONS OF ISRAELI TERRITORY: The Russian government has warned Lebanon not to permit violations of Israeli territory by the Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah, the London-based Arabic media outlet Asharq Al-Awsat reported. According to the report, Moscow warned the Lebanese government in a letter “not to play games with UN Security Council Resolution 1701”, referring to the Aug. 2006 motion by the UN Security Council marking the end of the second Israel-Lebanon war. Officials told Asharq Al-Awsat that Russia had called on Lebanon to ensure that the terror tunnels dug by Hezbollah from southern Lebanon into Israeli territory are neutralized. The letter suggested that Russia backed Israel’s demand that the Lebanese government be held responsible for Hezbollah activity within the country. The request comes following high level meetings between Israeli and Russian officials, during which Israel revealed evidence of Hezbollah’s attempts to infiltrate into Israeli territory with a series of cross-border terror tunnels. Israel recently launched Operation Northern Shield to locate and neutralize the tunnels. In the days immediately after Operation Northern Shield began, Israeli security forces located three cross-border tunnels from southern Lebanon. On Sunday 16 Dec. 2018 Israeli forces located a fourth tunnel.

BAHRAIN SUPPORTS AUSTRALIA’S RECOGNITION OF J’LEM AS CAPITAL: Hours after Australian PM Scott Morrison announced last week that his country would recognize western Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the Arab League released a furious statement denouncing the “irresponsible and biased” decision that it alleged was “contrary to international law.” However, Bahrain’s Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa opposed the Arab League's "irresponsible statements", tweeting that "Australia’s position does not hamper the legitimate demands of the Palestinians and first and foremost East Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital.” Earlier this month, Al Khalifa blasted Hezbollah for digging terrorist tunnels from Lebanon into Israeli territory. "Is the digging of tunnels by the organization not an open threat to the stability of Lebanon? Who bears responsibility when the neighboring countries take upon themselves the task of

getting rid of the danger that threatens them?" he wrote on Twitter. Last month, a senior Israeli official revealed that Israel is in close talks to establish diplomatic relations with the Gulf state.

PALESTINIANS SIGNAL THEY WANT ALL OF JERUSALEM: Australia's decision on Saturday 15 Dec. 2018 to officially recognize the western half of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel prompted a number of outbursts, some of them very, very revealing. The government of PM Benjamin Netanyahu expressed disappointment that, unlike USA President Donald Trump, Australian PM Scott Morrison only acknowledged Israeli sovereignty over half of the Holy City, and did not commit to moving his nation's embassy there. The Palestinian Authority also protested Australia's announcement. Many in Israel assumed that the Palestinians would celebrate Australia recognizing only West Jerusalem as Israel's seat of government as yet another repudiation of the Jews' claim to the entire city as their eternal capital. But then PA negotiator Saeb Erekat explained the outrage, and Israelis were again reminded of just how distant a genuine peace based on historical accuracy remains.

"All of Jerusalem remains a final status issue for negotiations, while East Jerusalem, under international law, is an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territory," insisted Erekat. That came as a surprise to nearly all Israelis, including those to the far left of the political spectrum, who have never considered control of the western half of Jerusalem to be up for negotiation. Did Erekat merely misspeak, or did he reveal that even at the highest levels of the supposedly "moderate" Palestinian government, the long-term goal remains wresting all this land from Israel? At the very least, Erekat's statement should make it clear to the international community that there won't be any kind of peace agreement in the near future, as no Israeli government, regardless of which party is in charge, will ever consider, or be allowed by the public to put West Jerusalem on the table.

NETANYAHU: ISRAELI TIES TO ARAB WORLD STRONGER WITHOUT PALESTINIANS: Israel stands a better chance to normalize ties with the Arab world without the Palestinians, PM Netanyahu told Israeli diplomats on Sunday, 16 Dec. 2018. "What is happening at the moment is that we are in a process of normalization with the Arab world without moving ahead in the diplomatic process with the Palestinians". Netanyahu spoke with the ambassadors as Israeli-Palestinian ties continued to unravel in the wake of a renewed wave of violence in Judea & Samaria. He explained that a policy of making peace first with the Arab states and only then with the Palestinians runs counter to the prevailing diplomatic belief that Israel-Arab ties could only occur after the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "Today we are going there without the Palestinians being involved and it is much stronger because it does not depend on their caprices. What has opened the possibility of Israel-Arab ties is the country's strong track record on technology and innovation. The Arab world needs technology and innovation. It needs water, electricity, medical care and high-tech," Netanyahu said. "Israel can provide the Arab states with such things so there is a growing connection between Israeli companies and the Arab world," he added.

IDF CONTINUES TO CLAMP DOWN ON JUDEA & SAMARIA AFTER DEADLY TERROR ATTACKS: The Israeli military continues to clamp down on the security in Judea & Samaria, arresting dozens of Palestinians as security forces continue to search for a Hamas cell believed to be behind a string of deadly attacks which recently claimed the lives of three Israelis. The military believes that the overall atmosphere in Judea & Samaria is tense and security forces have warned that Hamas is trying to carry out terror attacks with guidance from Gaza, Turkey and Lebanon. On Sunday 9 Dec. 2018 a Palestinian terrorist linked to Hamas shot and injured seven Israeli civilians at a bus stop outside of the Ofra settlement. Among the injured was a pregnant woman who was forced to give birth prematurely. The baby boy died after three days. On Thur. 13 Dec. 2018 two soldiers were killed after a Palestinian gunman opened fire at a bus stop near Ofra and escaped the scene with one of the soldier's weapons. A third soldier, Netanel Felber, remains in serious condition at Hadassah Ein Kerem in Jerusalem. An investigation into the attacks has shown that a single Hamas terror cell was responsible, with an automatic weapon used in both attacks.

IRANIAN FM: WE'VE PERFECTED THE ART OF EVADING SANCTIONS: Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Saturday 15 Dec. 2018 that USA sanctions will have no impact on the policies of the Islamic Republic at home or abroad. "It is obvious that we are facing pressure by the USA sanctions. But will that lead to a change in policy? I can assure you it won't," said Zarif. "If there is an art we have perfected in Iran and can teach to others for a price, it is the art of evading sanctions," he added. USA President Donald Trump withdrew in May 2018 from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, which he has said is "the worst deal ever negotiated". The USA has since imposed two rounds of sanctions on Iran, the latest of which went into effect in Nov. 2018. Those sanctions aim to reduce Iran's oil exports to zero in a bid to curb the Islamic Republic's missile program and regional influence. Iranian officials have remained defiant in the wake of the American sanctions, with President Hassan Rouhani having said recently that the USA "will be defeated" as it has chosen the wrong path in reimposing sanctions on his country.

IRAN GUARDS GENERAL DIES OF SELF-INFLICTED ACCIDENTAL GUNSHOT: A Revolutionary Guards general, who headed a military base in a sensitive security area in northeastern Iran, died on Sunday 16 Dec. 2018 after he accidentally shot himself in the head while cleaning his gun, the official news agency IRNA reported. The report identified the commander as General Qodratollah Mansouri, a veteran of the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s. Eastern Iran, which borders Afghanistan — the world's top opium producer — and Pakistan, has long been plagued by clashes with drug smuggling gangs. Southeastern Iran is also the scene of unrest by separatists and Sunni terrorist groups.

LABOUR UK OFFICIAL: JEWS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL WARS IN THE WORLD: The British Labour Party's West Midlands' regional organizer, Mohammed Yasin, has been suspended for sharing anti-Semitic material blaming Jews for "all the wars in the world." Yasin has been writing anti-Semitic posts and 9/11 conspiracy theories for more than two years.

OVER ONE MILLION ISRAELI CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY: Some 2.3 million Israelis, including over one million children and accounting for 26.5% of the entire population, live below the poverty line, according to Latet's 2018 Alternative Poverty Report published on Thur. 12 Dec. 2018. According to Latet, the primary food of 80.2% of children in the welfare system is bread and butter (36.9%) and carbohydrates (43.3%). This marks a significant increase since 2016, when the figure stood at 67.7%. Among the welfare-dependent elderly, some 92.4% of those in poverty said that their monthly pension does not enable or only partially enables them to meet the basic needs of dignified living. A majority of welfare recipients, almost 53%, said they frequently or occasionally lacked sufficient food at home during the past year, compared to only 5.8% of the wider population. A total of 77.5% said they did not have sufficient finances to purchase food to provide balanced meals, compared to 17.4% of Israeli society. A total of 68.4% of Israel's unemployed due to illness admitted to not purchasing necessary medicines or treatments as they did not have the financial means to pay for them.

"This report attests to the severe detached nature of a government suffering from choice blindness. No traffic jams with new cars or lines at Ben-Gurion Airport can hide the shameful hunger of one million children," said MK Ayelet Nahmias-Verbin, chairwoman of the Knesset Lobby for the Israeli Family. The report detailed that 66% of the Israeli public considers poverty and social gaps as the most pressing or second most pressing issue to be addressed by the government today – a decrease from 70.5% last year. While three-quarters of the public believe the government is the primary body responsibly for reducing poverty, only one-quarter said that the government is actually addressing the issue. Some 36.9% of the public believe the government refrains from setting targets for poverty reduction as long-term results are not of interest to politicians.

JERUSALEM TO BUILD EMBASSY QUARTER: Israel is preparing a special embassy quarter in the historic city of Jerusalem. Last week officials from the Construction and Housing Ministry announced plans to build a complex in the capital with space for nine separate embassies. The plan is being advanced by Construction and Housing Minister Yoav Galant who instructed ministry officials to prepare for additional

embassy moves, following the opening of the USA embassy earlier this year. Along with the USA, Guatemala has also relocated its embassy to Jerusalem. Other countries are expected to open embassies in Jerusalem in the near future, including Honduras and the Czech Republic. Australia, which has just officially recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital, is also considering opening either an embassy or consular facility in the city. Construction and Housing Ministry officials are examining the possibility of building the new embassy quarter in Jerusalem, on a plot of land in southeastern neighborhood of East Talpiot. The project will include nine separate sections built across 25 acres of land. The area will include both embassy facilities and housing for embassy staff.

ISRAEL TECHNOLOGY CONTINUES TO REVOLUTIONIZE HEALTHCARE: The start-up nation continues to be a driving force in technology, with some of the latest additions to healthcare set to increase life expectancy and improve the quality of life for many people around the world. With the pill cam being one of the most impressive Israeli innovations in recent years, here is another interesting businesses to come out of Israel in the health industry. Raziel Therapeutics has developed a fat melting injection to replace current treatments such as liposuction and gastric bands. The product melts existing fat cells and also prevents them from forming. This is achieved through heat which frees fatty acids and reduces the amount of fat tissue. With clinical trials underway, having one injection is expected to reduce an individual's fat by 50%.

COURT THROWS OUT HAMAS APPEAL OVER TERROR LISTING: A top EU court on Friday 14 Dec. 2018 threw out an appeal by the Hamas terrorist organization against its listing by the bloc as a terrorist organization. The General Court of the EU rejected a bid by Hamas to end a freeze on assets held in the bloc that was imposed in the wake of the 9/11 attacks in the United States. The ruling by the Luxembourg-based court is the latest round in a protracted legal battle between the EU and Hamas, which has opposed the sanctions from the outset. "By its judgment today the General Court dismisses Hamas' appeal concerning the acts of the Council adopted between 2010 and 2014 and in 2017," the bloc's second-highest tribunal said. In Friday's ruling, the General Court said the EU was entitled to list Hamas as a terrorist organization on the basis of a decision made by the British interior minister. "The General Court observes, contrary to Hamas' submissions, that holding on to power following elections, the political nature of an organization or its participation in a government do not constitute grounds for avoiding the application of the rules," the court said.

HAMAS TAKES CREDIT FOR MURDER OF UNBORN CHILD: Terror organization Hamas formally took responsibility Friday 14 Dec. 2018 for two terror attacks in which a Jewish man, woman and unborn child were murdered and 11 people injured. It said that the perpetrators – Salah al-Bargouti and Ashraf Na'alwah – belonged to Hamas. Both terrorists were killed last week by IDF forces. The organization hailed the two men as "martyrs" and noted that Na'alwah managed to evade the IDF for two months before being located and killed. Na'alwah murdered Ziv Hajbi and Kim Yehezkel-Levengrund at the Barkan Industrial Zone in early Oct. 2018. Bargouti murdered an unborn fetus this week when he fired at Jews near Ofra, wounding 11. One of the wounded was the pregnant Shira Ish-Ran, whose fetus died as a result.

PALESTINIAN LEADERS HAVE A DISTURBING IDEA OF 'HEORISM': Propaganda from Hamas and Fatah, the rulers of Gaza and Judea & Samaria, routinely sings the praises of the "heroes" and "martyrs" who slaughter Israeli civilians in the name of justice for the Palestinian people. Obscenely, that even extends to the murderer of a 4-day-old baby. Little Amiad Yisrael Ish-Ran perished Wed. 12 Dec. 2018, just four days after his delivery by emergency Cesarean at 30 weeks — surgery made necessary when he and his mother, Shira, were badly wounded in a local shooting (as was father, Amichai). Hamas' military wing, the Izz ad-Din Al-Qassam Brigades, took "credit" for the attack, but both rival Palestinian groups praised the killer, Saleh Omar Saleh Barghouti — himself killed Wed. 12 Dec. 2018, while resisting arrest. Hamas called the attack a "heroic and qualitative operation," serving "to affirm our people's legitimate right to resist the occupation." Fatah called him a "heroic martyr of the homeland," with lots of poetry about his blood spreading a fine scent

on the wind. As with all Palestinians who commit the political murder of any Israeli, the late killer's family will qualify for a substantial stipend from the Palestinian Authority. You don't have to support Israel to find this beyond barbaric.

MOTHER WHO LOST INFANT IN TERROR ATTACK VOWS TO GAVE 'MANY MORE BABIES': Shira Ish-Ran, the pregnant woman who was severely wounded and lost her baby boy in a Judea & Samaria shooting attack last week, vowed on Thur. 13 Dec. 2018. 2018 to have "many more babies" in response to the terror attack. The 21-year-old, who was 30 weeks pregnant at the time of the terror attack outside the Ofra settlement, was seriously wounded in the shooting, and doctors prematurely delivered the infant in an emergency C-section hours later. The baby died in a Jerusalem hospital on Wed. 12 Dec. 2018. On Thursday, after her condition improved further and a day after her four-day-old son was laid to rest, Ish-Ran was quoted by Hebrew-language media as saying, in her first remarks since the attack: "I will prove to them, I will show them. I will bring many more babies into this world."

CHRISTIANS FACE 'IMMINENT EXTINCTION' IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY WARNS: Christians in the Middle East are facing 'imminent extinction', the Archbishop of Canterbury warned last week. Justin Welby said followers of the faith were subject to the "daily threat of murder" and the situation was the worst "since the Mongol invasions of the 13th century". Figures suggest that just one in 400 Syrian refugees given asylum in the UK last year was a Christian. Speaking on the BBC's Andrew Marr show, Welby said: "The plight of Christians in many parts of the Middle East has become more and more acute. As we approach Christmas, we need to pray for them and speak out for them." In a recent article, Welby wrote that in the last few years, "Christians have been slaughtered by ISIS, and in many Middle Eastern countries they find themselves squeezed between the upper and lower millstones of pressure on them within society and of conflicts that afflict the region. Many have left. Hundreds of thousands have been forced from their homes. Many have been killed, enslaved and persecuted or forcibly converted. The Archbishop pointed out that the Christian population of Iraq was under half what it was in 2003, and many churches had been destroyed. "Across the region Christian communities that were the foundation of the universal Church now face the threat of imminent extinction." he wrote.

IRAN ARRESTS OVER 100 CHRISTIANS IN CRACKDOWN ON CONVERSIONS: Iranian authorities have over the past few days reportedly arrested more than 100 Christians, as the regime seeks to crack down on conversions and what it construes as preaching by evangelicals. While Christians make up less than 1 percent—around 350,000 people—of Iran's population, growing public interest in the faith apparently is causing concern within the Islamic corridors of power in Tehran. Although the existing Christian community is for the most part accepted by Iran's theocratic rulers, conversion from Islam remains a criminal offense in the country. Rights groups have long criticized the mullahs for their mistreatment of Christian converts in addition to other religious and ethnic minority groups. For his part, Israeli PM Netanyahu in July 2018 accused Tehran of jailing and torturing Christians in a "brutal" campaign of persecution.

THE GOAL: NO JEWS IN EUROPE AND NO JEWISH STATE IN THE MIDDLE EAST: "Decades after the Holocaust, shocking and mounting levels of anti-Semitism continue to plague the EU", Michael O'Flaherty, the director of the European agency, said in a statement. "Jewish people have the right to live freely, without hate and without fear for their safety". Nice words. But that is exactly the point. European Islamists, the lead actors of this new anti-Semitism along with the leftist useful idiots, are trying to stage a "final solution" of what they call the "Jewish-Zionist cancer" in the Middle East (Iran's Rouhani holds the copyright for that term). They really want a jüdenrein world without Jews in Europe, fleeing from anti-Semitism, and without Jews in the Middle East, with the destruction of Israel. Europe has become the epicenter of the new war against Israel and the Jews. Europe fights the Jewish State in the political arenas, in the corridors of power in Brussels, in various Western European capitals and the UN, inside Israel with the NGOs it funds, the media and the diplomacy.

Europe is a bystander no more. It has become deliberately responsible for the abominable crime of cultural genocide: wiping out the past existence of a people – the Jews – to eliminate their current political legitimacy and its human, religious, cultural and historical rights. That is why Europe voted along with the Islamic regimes at the recent UN resolutions denying the Jewish history of Jerusalem. We are at the point that many Jews prefer to leave Europe to live in Israel. What a step back, the Jews flee again from Europe to seek peace and security in a country that has only enemies around it, those who as a single entity cultivate the will to find the way to destroy Israel and throw its corpse into the sea.

OHIO MAN ARRESTED FOR PLANNING ATTACK ON TOLEDO SYNAGOGUE: Damon M. Joseph, 21, was arrested last week and charged with attempting to provide material support to ISIS by planning an attack on a synagogue in Toledo, federal officials announced Mon. 10 Dec. 2018. After Joseph posted photographs of weapons and messages in support of ISIS on his social media accounts, undercover FBI agents began corresponding with him. After a gunman killed 11 congregants at a Pittsburgh synagogue, Joseph told an undercover agent that he "admired what the guy did with the shooting. I can see myself carrying out this type of operation if Allah wills it." On 4 Dec. 2018 Joseph said he was deciding between two synagogues in the area, saying the choice depended on "which one will have the most people."

THE ISRAEL-EUROPE PIPELINE: A STRATEGIC UMBILICAL CORD: After two years in intense negotiations, shadowed by on-off parallel talks with Turkey, Israel has agreed with European nations to supply the EU with its future natural gas needs. The project will turn Israel into a significant fuel-exporting nation. It will take a year to put the financing in place. Then construction will begin on the longest and deepest underwater fuel pipeline in the world. Some 2,100 kilometers in length and lying three kilometers under the Mediterranean Sea, the \$7 billion project will take five years to complete. Credit must go to Israel's Minister of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources Yuval Steinitz, who first proposed the project at a conference in the unlikely location of Abu Dhabi two years ago. The United Arab Emirates have already invested \$100 million in the venture. Rarely discussed, this is a covert cornerstone underpinning the change in relationship between parts of the Arab world and the Jewish State. The project will be known as the East Med Pipeline Project. Natural gas will flow from Israel's Leviathan offshore gas reservoir via Cyprus, Crete and Greece to reach its terminal on the southeast heel of Italy. This multinational pipeline will supply Europe with 125 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually by 2030.

ISRAEL TO EMPLOY 1,000 FILIPINO WORKERS TO REDUCE HOTEL STAFF SHORTAGE: Minister of Tourism Yariv Levin and Philippines Labor and Employment Minister Silvestre Bello III signed a bilateral labor agreement on Tue. 11 Dec. 2018 to enable the arrival of up to 1,000 Filipino workers to reduce a severe staff shortage currently affecting the Israeli hotel industry. By filling vacant positions, the Tourism Ministry hopes to reduce vacation costs and further advance tourism as an engine for economic growth. According to the Tourism Ministry, there has been difficulty in recruiting Israeli workers, regardless of wages, for hotel cleaning jobs. Currently there are 1,550 vacant cleaning positions in Israel. For jobs requiring training, including cooks and waiters, there are approximately 1,600 unfilled positions

IKEA TO OPEN FIFTH ISRAELI STORE NEAR JERUSALEM: The Swedish furniture and home accessories giant IKEA announced Tues. 11 Dec. 2018 that it plans to open a fifth store in Israel - in the small community of Stool, west of Jerusalem. Expected to employ around 400 people, the new branch is set to open in early 2020. IKEA's first Israeli store opened in the coastal city of Netanya in 2001, and was followed by branches in Rishon Lezion, in the center of the country; in Kiryat Atta in the north; and, earlier this year, in the southern city of Beersheba.

CACHE OF GOLD COINS AND 900-YEAR-OLD GOLD EARRING FOUND IN CAESAREA: A small bronze pot was found earlier this month at the Caesarea National Park, and inside it were 24 gold coins and a gold earring, according to the Antiquities Authority. The cache was found hidden between two stones in

the side of a wall, located in a house built in the Abbasid and Fatimid periods (909-1171 AD). The coins are dated to the end of the 11th century, which would link the coins to the Crusader conquest of the city in the year 1101, one of the more critical events in the city's medieval history. The authority said it can be presumed that the treasure's owner and his family died in a Crusade massacre, or were sold into slavery. They would have been unable to return to the home and retrieve their hidden gold. The cache was said to be "a unique combination of coins not yet seen in Israel" consisting of two types of coins: 18 Fatimid dinars, well known from previous excavations in Caesarea, where it was the standard local currency of the time, and a small and extremely rare group of six Byzantine imperial gold coins. "One coin would be equal to a farmer's annual salary, so whoever owned the cache was likely wealthy," assessed one authority expert.



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