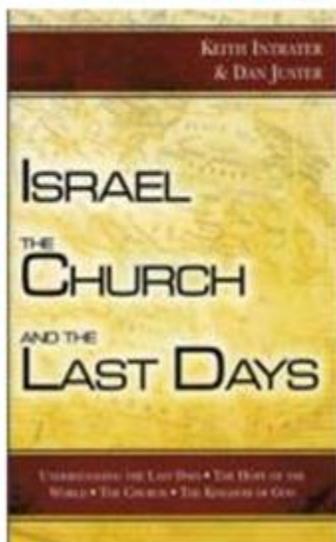


## ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update March 29, 2018 (13<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, 5778)***

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### ***Yachad's Report The Newsletter For March 2018***

**JERUSALEM ON HIGH ALERT AHEAD OF HOLIDAYS:** The two terror attacks in the past several days in Mevo Dotan and Jerusalem's Old City, which claimed the lives of three Israelis in total, naturally put defense forces across the country on high alert ahead of the coming Passover holiday, but doubly so in the capital. In Jerusalem, this heightened level of alert is manifested in the increased deployment of Border Police and police forces in the Old City, where many Israelis as well as tourists will spend some of the upcoming Passover holiday. "The defense establishment realizes that the cluster of events we are facing may be highly combustible. We're on the precipice of Passover, two memorial days and Independence Day," said a senior police source. (Ynet)

**ISRAEL TO DEPLOY TEAR GAS-DROPPING DRONES ON PLANNED GAZA BORDER PROTESTS:** Border Police are planning to deploy a newly developed drone that can drop tear gas canisters against Palestinian demonstrators expected to march on the border fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip in

the coming weeks. Hamas has called for a peaceful protest beginning on 30 March 2018, with thousands of Palestinians moving to tent cities to be built along Israel's border. In mid-May, coinciding with the English date of Israel's Independence Day, known to Palestinians as the Nakba, or catastrophe, a mass march is planned on the border, which Israelis fear will turn violent. Border Police Deputy Commissioner Yaakov Shabtai, who is leading the drone development, told media outlets that the tear gas drone gives security forces an extended reach. (Times of Israel/Worthy News)

**SENATE GIVES FINAL APPROVAL TO TAYLOR FORCE ACT:** The Senate on 23 March, 2018 gave final approval to the measure which would slash United States funding to the Palestinian Authority (PA) if it continues to pay terrorists and their families. With the Senate endorsement of this financial cut, the widening gap between the Trump Administration and the Palestinian Authority is expected to expand even further. The loss of American funding is in accordance to the Taylor Force Act, named for an American citizen stabbed to death by a Palestinian terrorist whose family became eligible for stipends paid by the PA to perpetrators of violence against Israelis. Despite insistence by Palestinian officials who argue that absent the payments from the PA more radical groups such as Hamas will win over the loyalty of the families and associates of assailants, Congress was adamant in its rejection of USA tax dollars being used to "reward" terror regardless of the alleged justification. Since the Taylor Force Act circulated through Congress, relations with the PA have devolved to the point of PA President Abbas refusing to accept the United States as an honest broker to oversee peace talks and President Trump infuriating the Palestinians with a statement of recognition of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital and the announcement that the USA Embassy will move to Jerusalem in May 2018. Lest there be any doubt regarding President Abbas' position vis-à-vis the United States, his recent wish to President Trump that his "house be destroyed" and his reference to American Ambassador to Israel David Friedman as a "son of a dog" continue to reverberate in media and in diplomatic circles. (Medialine)

**HALEY SLAMS UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL FOR MORE CONDEMNATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL:** The UN Human Rights Council passed five anti-Israel resolutions in Geneva on Friday 23 March, 2018. USA Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley expressed America's outrage at the UNHRC's treatment of Israel and warned that the USA would reconsider its membership in the body. "When the Human Rights Council treats Israel worse than North Korea, Iran, and Syria, it is the Council itself that is foolish and unworthy of its name. Our patience is not unlimited. Today's actions make clear that the organization lacks the credibility needed to be a true advocate for human rights." One resolution called on Israel to give the Golan Heights to civil war-torn Syria. Another called on member states not to sell any military armaments to Israel. Others called for an Israeli withdrawal to the 1948 lines and to cease building homes for Jews in Judea & Samaria. (JNS)

**PALESTINIAN CLAIM TO DEAD SEA SCROLLS MAY BE NEXT UP AT UNESCO:** The next "prize" the Palestinians will likely claim as their own at UNESCO will probably be the archaeological site of Qumran and its Dead Sea Scrolls, said Shimon Samuels of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Samuels chronicled the Palestinians' success at having attributed to themselves biblical and cultural sites, including Jewish ones, on the World Heritage List since joining the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as a member state in 2011. The World Heritage Committee ascribed to "Palestine" Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity in 2012; the agricultural terraces of Battir, site of the ancient Jewish fortress at Betar, in 2014; and Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs in 2017. "The Palestinian Authority has a tentative list of 13 additional sites

it seeks to register at UNESCO. Out of that list the Palestinians are next likely to seek cultural ownership of the Qumran Caves and Dead Sea Scrolls," said Samuels. But among the most tumultuous of issues since the Palestinians joined UNESCO have been its Executive Board's approvals of resolutions that ignore Jewish ties to the Temple Mount and the Western Wall. The text of what came to be known as the Jerusalem resolutions called those sites solely by their Islamic names of al-Haram al-Sharif and the Buraq Plaza. (J.Post)

**PAYPAL SHUTS ACCOUNT OF FRENCH BDS GROUP WITH LINKS TO TERRORISM:** The USA online payment service PayPal days ago pulled the plug on the account of the French branch of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) - an organization that Israel has accused of aligning itself with pro-Palestinian terrorists who murdered three civilians in Tel Aviv in 2003 and injured over 50 people. Israeli journalist Jean Patrick Grumberg, a reporter for the French-language American website Dreuz.info, notified PayPal that ISM-France supports the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel. PayPal has terminated a total of four BDS accounts since 2016 in France due to violations of France's anti-discrimination law barring bias against national origin. (J.Post)

**HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR'S BODY FOUND BURNT, STABBED IN PARIS APARTMENT:** The National Bureau for Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism, or BNVCA, wrote in a statement 25 March, 2018 that the murder of the 85-year-old woman, identified in the French media as Mirelle Kanol, "is reminiscent of the crime committed against Sarah Halimi," a 66-year-old Jewish teacher and physician whom prosecutors say was murdered by her Muslim neighbor in April 2017, partly in connection with her Jewish identity. According to the BNVCA, the octogenarian's body was set on fire last Friday night 23 March, 2018. Her charred body also had at least 11 stab wounds. Prosecutors investigating the slaying of the Holocaust survivor in Paris said the two suspects in custody targeted her because she was Jewish. One of the suspects was a regular visitor of Kanol's whom she treated "like a son" and who had visited her that day, Kanol's son told media sources. Kanol's granddaughter, Noa Goldfarb, wrote on Facebook that her grandmother had been murdered by a Muslim neighbor. France's half-a-million-plus Jewish community has voiced increasing concern over a rise in violent anti-Semitic acts. (JTA)

**ISRAEL DEFENSE MINISTER MAKES HISTORIC VISIT TO AFRICA:** Avigdor Liberman last week became the first-ever Israeli defense minister to visit Rwanda, his initial stop on a four-day visit to Africa that took him also to Tanzania and Zambia. "Rwanda and Israel share a desire for a better future for their citizens, cooperation, and partnerships that are being built," Liberman told Rwandan President Paul Kagame, adding that "relations between the two countries are stronger and deeper than ever." The trip comes amid widespread criticism of the Israeli government's planned deportation—which recently was put on hold by a High Court ruling—of tens of thousands of African migrants from the Jewish state to unnamed third countries, widely believed to be Rwanda and Uganda. Jerusalem has long supplied African states with arms, technological know-how and humanitarian assistance. Israeli PM Binyamin Netanyahu has made strengthening ties with the continent a diplomatic priority and has traveled there three times over the past two years. Liberman said as he left Tanzania that "Israel is pushing Iran out of Africa. Africa has huge potential and Israel as a world leader in advanced technologies has exactly what Africa needs in agriculture, medicine, security, counter-terrorism and border defenses. In every African country that we have alliances and agreements with, we are pushing Iran out and isolating her. If Israel doesn't seize the opportunity to deepen cooperation, then others, in particular the Iranians will do so in our place," he warned. (Medialine)

**‘WITHOUT OUR BORDER FENCE WE’D BE FLOODED WITH INFILTRATORS’:** Israel’s illegal immigration quandary, centering on the future of 40,000 infiltrators who crossed into Israel over the Egyptian border, would look very different had Israel not built a physical barrier along its frontier with Egypt, PM Netanyahu said last week. Some 60,000 illegal immigrants entered the Jewish state from 2005 to 2013, most of them citizens of Somalia, Sudan, and Eritrea. The wave of illegal immigration peaked in 2011, when close to 20,000 infiltrators entered the country. In 2010, the Israeli government began construction of a 152-mile long border fence, spanning the entirety of the Israel-Egypt frontier. Completed in December 2013, the barrier led to a massive reduction in the number of illegal crossings, with zero infiltrations in 2017.

PM Netanyahu said that the fence protected Israel from the rising threat of radical Islamist terrorism in the Sinai Peninsula, as well as a massive wave of illegal immigration. "Israel is surrounded by outposts of radical Islam; therefore, we need to safeguard our borders," said Netanyahu. "Were it not for the fence, we would be faced with a broken trough – severe attacks by Sinai terrorists, and something much worse, a flood of illegal migrants from Africa. We are talking about a Jewish and democratic state but how could we assure a Jewish and democratic state with 50,000 and then 100,000 and 150,000 migrants a year? After a million, 1.5 million, one could close up shop. But we have not closed down." Some 38,000 infiltrators who crossed over from the Sinai remain in Israel, not including children born after their arrival. While the government has approved a deportation plan which would remove most of the 38,000 illegal immigrants to third-party states in Africa, the Supreme Court issued a temporary injunction against the plan last week. (Arutz-7)

**NETANYAHU: OUR POLICY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS REMAINS CONSISTENT:** PM Binyamin Netanyahu said 21 March 2018 that Israel will prevent enemies from obtaining nuclear weapons after its military admitted it carried out a 2007 air raid against a Syrian nuclear reactor. "The Israeli government, the (Israeli military), and the Mossad (intelligence agency) have prevented Syria from developing nuclear capability, and they deserve every credit for this," Netanyahu said. "Israel's policy has been and remains consistent -- to prevent our enemies from acquiring nuclear weapons." The admission along with the release of newly declassified material related to the raid comes as Israel intensifies its warnings over the presence of its main enemy Iran in neighboring Syria. Netanyahu has also repeatedly called for the 2015 nuclear deal between world powers and Iran to be changed or eliminated. (Arutz-7)

**DANNY DANON: ‘SYRIAN NUCLEAR REACTOR ATTACK SHOWS ISRAEL WILL ALWAYS DEFEND ITSELF’:** Israel's Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon said last week that Israel's attack on the Syrian nuclear reactor in 2007 showed that it was determined to act against its enemies. "The international community should know that today, as then, Israel will do everything necessary to maintain its security and not stand idly by in the face of threats that endanger its citizens," said Danon. (INN)

**PA TEEN WHO SLAPPED SOLDIERS TO RECEIVE 8 MONTHS IN PRISON:** 17-year-old terrorist, Ahed Tamimi, who was filmed slapping IDF soldiers in the village of Nabi Saleh, will be sentenced to eight months of imprisonment as part of a plea bargain. In the plea bargain it was decided that the terrorist would not be charged with calling for attacks, but would admit to incitement, assaulting a soldier and disrupting a soldier in the performance of his duties. The three months in which she has been under arrest will be deducted from the sentence to be imposed on her. In the original indictment, Tamimi was accused of several additional

assault attempts against security forces which were deleted following the plea bargain. At the same time, the court was presented with plea bargains that were conducted with Tamimi's mother and her cousin, who were also involved in attacking the soldiers. The cousin will be sentenced to five years in prison and the mother to eight months in prison for assisting in assault, incitement and disturbance to a soldier in the performance of his duties. (Arutz-7)

**ISRAELI MINISTERS PRAISE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN BOLTON:** Two ministers from Israel's right-wing Jewish Home party and another from the ruling Likud party congratulated former USA ambassador to the UN John Bolton on 23 March, 2018 for his appointment as USA President Donald Trump's new national security adviser. Education Minister Naftali Bennett tweeted that it was a "great appointment" and that Bolton, considered a foreign policy hawk who is opposed to the Iran nuclear deal, was a "stalwart friend of Israel." Environment Minister Ze'ev Elkin of Likud said Bolton was not unknown to Israel. "He has been, unquestionably, a friend of Israel for many years, including in his position as USA ambassador to the UN. I have no doubt it will be comfortable for us to work with him." (Times of Israel)

**ISRAEL- BOUND PLANE FLIES OVER SAUDI ARABIA FOR FIRST TIME:** Saudi Arabia has opened its airspace for the first time to an Israel-bound Air India passenger plane, breaking a ban on flying over the Arab kingdom. "This is a historic evening. The Israeli skies are connecting with the Saudi Arabian skies in one direct flight," said Israeli transport minister Yisrael Katz. "We are celebrating the strengthening relations with India and the first civilian connection with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states." The historic Air India flight on 22 March, 2018 ended a 70-year flyover ban for jetliners in route to or from Israel, in what many have taken to be a sign of thawing ties between Israel (Guardian-UK)

**SHOFAR IN THE SENATE IN HONOR OF ISRAEL:** The Washington State Senate passed a resolution in honor of Israel's 70th Independence Day. The resolution was submitted by Republican legislator Matt Shea and was approved unanimously despite the fact that the state is considered to be affiliated with the left. The Israeli consul in this area of the United States, Shlomi Kofman, was the special guest for the approval of the resolution. After the vote, a number of legislators delivered moving speeches about their connection to the State of Israel, following which a Christian woman blew the shofar. (Arutz-7)

**ISRAEL CONFIRMS IT DESTROYED SYRIAN NUCLEAR REACTOR, WARNS IRAN IT'S NEXT:** Israel on Wed. 21 March 2018 formally acknowledged what everyone already knew - that its air force destroyed Syria's nuclear reactor on Sept. 6, 2007. For over 10 years, Israeli officials have merely "winked" when asked about the operation. Now that it's official, the IDF is calling the covert bombing operation deep inside Syrian territory a warning shot for other enemies. "The message of the attack on the reactor in 2007 is that Israel will not accept the construction of a capability that threatens the existence of the State of Israel. That was the message in '81. That was the message in 2007. And that is the message to our enemies for the future," said IDF Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot. Both Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman and Intelligence Minister Israel Katz more directly suggested that if Iran continues to seek nuclear weapons, it's next. "Our enemies' motivation has increased in recent years, but so has the might of the IDF. This equation should be understood by anyone in the Middle East," said Liberman. Katz tweeted that "the courageous decision of the Israeli government almost 11 years ago to destroy the nuclear reactor in Syria and the successful operation

following it sends a clear message: Israel will never allow countries like Iran who threaten its existence to have nuclear weapons." (Israel Today)

**SAUDI ARABIA SAYS REVAMPING EDUCATION TO COMBAT ‘EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES’:**

Saudi Arabia is revamping its education curriculum to eradicate any trace of Muslim Brotherhood influence and will dismiss anyone working in the sector who sympathizes with the banned group, the education minister said. Promoting a more moderate form of Islam is one of the promises made by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman under plans to modernize the deeply conservative Muslim kingdom. The education ministry is working to "combat extremist ideologies by reviewing school curricula and books to ensure they do not reflect the banned Muslim Brotherhood's agenda," Ahmed al-Isa, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Education, said on 20 March 2018. It would "ban such books from schools and universities and remove those who sympathize with the group or its ideology from their posts," he added. Earlier this month, Crown Prince Mohammed told CBS in an interview that Saudi schools have been "invaded" by elements of the Muslim Brotherhood, which has been designated by Saudi Arabia as a terrorist organization along with other terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda and ISIS. The young crown prince has already taken some steps to loosen Saudi Arabia's ultra-strict social restrictions, scaling back the role of religious morality police, permitting public concerts and announcing plans to allow women to drive. (J.Post)

**EUROPEAN POWERS PROPOSE NEW IRAN SANCTIONS TO MEET TRUMP ULTIMATUM:**

Britain, France and Germany have proposed fresh EU sanctions on Iran over its ballistic missiles and its role in Syria's war, according to a confidential document sent to EU capitals . The proposal is part of an EU strategy to save the 2015 nuclear deal. President Trump delivered an ultimatum to the European signatories on 12 Jan. 2018. It said they must agree to "fix the terrible flaws of the Iran nuclear deal" or he would refuse to extend USA sanctions relief on Iran after 12 May 2018. A diplomat said the proposal also reflects frustration with Tehran: "We're getting irritated. We've been talking to them for 18 months and have had no progress on these issues." (Reuters)

**‘IRAN STANDS BEHIND EVERY ONE OF HAMAS’ ACTIONS’:**

The Israeli Army destroyed two Hamas tunnels late Saturday night 17 March 2018, including one which crossed into Israeli territory. Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely this week discussed with foreign ambassadors to Israel the terror tunnels destroyed by the IDF. Speaking to the ambassadors, Hotovely said, "The tunnel destroyed by the IDF last week led to the town of Kerem Shalom, where we visited two weeks ago. Hamas has thrown Gaza residents to the wind, and is using humanitarian funds to carry out terror attacks against Israeli citizens. It's important to remember that behind each of Hamas' actions is Iran. The Iranian regime transfers \$100 million annually to Hamas, and every cent of it is used against Israel. It does not help Gaza residents at all. We cannot support Hamas' provocations. The only purpose their violent marches have is to undermine Israel's sovereignty, and they should not receive international support. We cannot help Gaza residents without fighting Hamas and Iran." (Arutz-7)

**IDF KEEPS DESTROYING TERROR TUNNELS FROM GAZA:**

In less than six months, the IDF has dealt with seven terror tunnels - six by Hamas and one by Islamic Jihad. Four of the tunnels were neutralized by engineering forces after approaching or touching Israeli territory, and the other three were bombed. In addition, the IDF has stepped up construction of an underground obstacle on the Gaza border in several

places. The work is carried out six days a week, mostly by workers from Turkey, Romania and Moldova, as well as Israeli Arabs. A land battery has been erected at every construction site to defend the workers from sniper fire or antitank missiles, and each laborer is required to wear a helmet and a bullet-proof vest at all times. (Ynet)

**CALL TO UN SECRETARY- GENERAL: SUSPEND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER:** Citizens from more than 30 countries around the world appealed to the UN Secretary-General to suspend UN Human Rights Commissioner Zaid Ra'ad al-Hussein after calling Judea & Samaria communities a "war crime", following the latest report he issued regarding the pace of construction for Jews in Judea and Samaria. "While tens of thousands of people are being slaughtered in Syria, and while women's rights are being disregarded in Iran, the Human Rights Commissioner is issuing a report on the settlement movement in Israel, which details construction information, calling it a war crime", mentioned the letter. "The Commissioner' s obsession with Israel is unacceptable. We hear his decisions come from anti-Semitic motives, and we call for the immediate dismissal of Zaid Ra'ad Al-Hussein from the position of UN Human Rights Commissioner." The letter was signed by dozens of supporters of Israel and Jewish settlement in Judea & Samaria from around the world. These countries include Switzerland, Austria, the United States, Finland, Germany, Italy, Singapore, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Canada, as well as African countries such as Rwanda, Uganda, South Africa, and Tanzania. (Arutz-7)

**PA PRESIDENT ABBAS CALLS USA AMBASSADOR FRIEDMAN ‘SON OF DOG’:** Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on 19 March 2018 called USA Ambassador to Israel David Friedman “a son of a dog,” while criticizing him for supporting settlement building in Judea & Samaria. Abbas made the comment in a speech he delivered to a meeting of the Ramallah-based Palestinian leadership at the PA presidential headquarters. “The USA administration has said that settlement building is legitimate. That’s what several American officials have said including, first and foremost, their ambassador in Tel Aviv David Friedman. He said settlers are building in their land. Son of a dog, they are building in their land? He is a settler and his family members are settlers,” Abbas said. Abbas made the comment about Friedman after the American ambassador to Israel criticized the PA earlier this week for not publicly condemning a car ramming by a Palestinian that took the life of two Israeli soldiers. “Tragedy in Israel. Two young soldiers, Netanel Kahalani and Ziv Daos, murdered in the North, and father of 4, Adiel Kolman, murdered in Jerusalem, by Palestinian terrorists. Such brutality and no condemnation from the PA! I pray for the families and the wounded – so much sadness.” Friedman does not live in settlement, but in the USA ambassador to Israel’s residence in Herzliya north of Tel Aviv. He has previously expressed support for settlers. Responding to Abbas’ comment about him, Friedman said in a speech on Monday: “Is that anti-Semitism or political discourse? I leave that up to you.” (J.Post)

**PM: ABBAS’ ATTACK ON USA AMBASSADOR SAYS IT ALL:** PM Binyamin Netanyahu has responded to Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas' attack on United States Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, whom Abu Mazen called "son of a dog and a settler." Netanyahu said, "Abu Mazen's attack on USA Ambassador David Friedman says it all. For the first time in decades, the American administration has stopped pampering the Palestinian leaders and he tells them: ‘That's enough’. Apparently the shock from the truth makes them lose their heads. President Donald Trump’s envoy to the peace process, Jason Greenblatt, likewise slammed PA President Abbas on 19 March, 2018 for his insult against USA Ambassador

David Friedman. He called upon the PA leader to abandon his “hateful rhetoric,” and instead focus on improving the lives of his people (Arutz-7/Times of Israel)



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