

# ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update May 17, 2018*** ***(3<sup>rd</sup> of Sivan, 5778)***



**HAMAS HAS TAKEN GAZA BACK TO THE STONE AGE:** As Hamas continues to exploit protests to foment violence against Israel, finding a way to help the people of Gaza in any meaningful way becomes more and more challenging. Israeli has deep concerns about “the idea of swarming across the barrier, a mass of tens of thousands of people too numerous for Israeli soldiers to arrest or even to shoot.” They cite an Israeli colonel’s explanation that the protesters are “trying to infiltrate into Israel, damage our infrastructure and kill Israelis,” and that Hamas leader Ismail Radwan urged protestors not to fear death, but instead to welcome martyrdom. Many blame Israel, Egypt and/or the Palestinian Authority for the situation in Gaza. Let’s get real about this – Hamas, and its enablers, such as Iran, are squarely to blame for the desperate situation in Gaza. Hamas has consistently put its own destructive priorities above those of Gaza’s weary and increasingly desperate population.

The Israelis have indicated that they want to do more to help the people of Gaza, if they could be assured that additional items they allow into Gaza will not be repurposed into weapons or used to build tunnels to attack Israel. Israel might choose to ease restrictions on travel, if it can be assured that those who are crossing into and through Israel will not commit acts of terrorism or smuggling weapons or cash to be used for terrorism. Egypt could also do more to help the people of Gaza, but Egypt shares the same legitimate security concerns as Israel. Additionally, deep and pervasive donor fatigue has set in. No one wants to spend money building and rebuilding, only to find what they built is damaged or destroyed in yet another conflict. Hamas has managed to bring the people of Gaza nearly back to the Stone Age. What an embarrassment, what a desolation, what a failure. (J.Post)

**59 RIOTERS DEAD, HUNDREDS WOUNDED AS CLASHES ON GAZA BORDER HEAT UP:** Fifty-nine Arab rioters were killed and hundreds more were wounded Mon.14 May 2018, after clashes erupted along the Gaza-Israel border ahead of the opening ceremony for the new USA embassy in Jerusalem. Rioters threw stones and burning tires at Israeli soldiers stationed along the border to prevent infiltrations into Israeli territory. Israeli security personnel opened fire on stone-throwers and rioters who approached the Israeli security fence. More than 40,000 Gazans gathered at the border with Israel as part of the demonstrations. Seventy-nine Gaza rioters have been killed since the beginning of the riots, dubbed the “March of Return”, on 30 March 2018. The mass-demonstrations kicked off six weeks of violent clashes along the Israel-Gaza

border, culminating in a massive “Nakba Day”. Nakba, Arabic for “disaster”, is the term used by Hamas and other anti-Israel groups in the Palestinian Authority and Gaza in reference to the anniversary of Israel’s establishment. Monday 14 May 2018 marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel. Hamas leaders called on the rioters to break through Israel’s security fence along the Gaza border and infiltrate into Israeli territory in masse. Hamas posted pictures and maps on social media showing the shortest routes from the border fence to nearby Israeli communities if protesters managed to breach the security fence. (INN)

**NETANYAHU DEFENDS USE OF DEADLY FORCE IN GAZA, SAYS HAMAS PUT “CHILDREN INTO THE LINE OF FIRE”:** Israeli PM Netanyahu on Tues. 15 May 2018 defended the military's use of lethal force against Palestinians during anti-Israel protests along the Gaza border. In an interview with "CBS News" the prime minister said Palestinians put children in the line of fire. I don't know of any army that would do anything differently if you had to protect your border against people who say, 'We're going to destroy you, and we're going to flood into your country. You try other means. You try non-lethal means, and they don't work, so you're left with bad choices. It's a bad deal and unfortunately these things are avoidable. If Hamas had not pushed them there, then nothing would happen. Hamas holds responsibility for doing this, and they're deliberately doing it.' Nearly 60 Palestinians were killed during the previous day's mass protest, which came on the same day the USA officially moved its embassy to Jerusalem. Netanyahu put the blame for the death toll on Hamas, which controls Gaza. “They're pushing civilians, women, and children into the line of fire with the view of getting casualties,” said Netanyahu “We try to minimize casualties. They're trying to incur casualties in order to put pressure on Israel, which is horrible.” (CBS)

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR GAZA DEATHS 'SQUARELY WITH HAMAS,' WHITE HOUSE SAYS:** The deaths of 59 Gazan protesters along Israel's border are "tragic," but ultimately the responsibility of Hamas – not Israeli defense forces, the Trump administration said on Mon.14 May 2018. Riots in the coastal strip flared on Monday in response to the opening of a new USA embassy in Jerusalem. Israelis say the ancient city is their undivided capital, and will remain so; but Palestinians insist on having a capital of their own in its eastern districts in the event of a two-state solution to the conflict. The White House has blamed Hamas, a terrorist organization that governs the Strip, for stoking violent protests against Israel that have goaded Israeli security forces. "We believe that Hamas as an organization is engaged in cynical action that is leading to these deaths," Raj Shah, a deputy press secretary at the White House, told reporters. "The responsibility for these tragic deaths rests squarely with Hamas."

Danny Danon, Israeli Ambassador to the UN, has called on the Security Council to condemn Hamas. He said, “Not only does Hamas incite tens of thousands of Palestinians to breach the border and hurt Israeli civilians, but Hamas also deliberately endangers Palestinian civilians. The murder of Israeli civilians or deaths of the people of Gaza – each one of them is a desirable outcome for Hamas.” Danon concluded, “Every casualty on the border is a victim of Hamas’ war crimes, every death is a result of Hamas’ terror activity, and these casualties are solely Hamas’ responsibility.” (J.Post/Ynet)

**‘IRAN’S BEEN HIT HARD’:** Former Deputy Chief of Staff and National Security Council head Maj.-Gen. (Res.) Uzi Dayan spoke in a media interview about Israel's actions against Iran in Syria and the nuclear program exposed by the Israeli Mossad. Regarding Iran's atomic archive exposure, Dayan says "Iran's taken a heavy blow because it's escalated the situation. The whole world knows they're liars and have been all along; everyone understands they're trying to achieve nuclear weapons, why else are they building ballistic missiles? If Iran has nuclear weapons, all the problems of the Middle East and Europe will remain and some will worsen. No one will deal with those who export terror and revolution, and who has a nuclear umbrella behind all that. What we need is to continue to define the clear lines in Syria so it won't become an Iranian outpost." Dayan also refers to the Gaza situation and the repeated "marches of return" towards the fence, saying the intensity of the conflict depends on Hamas: "Israel in the southern and northern arena is not making moves to

deteriorate the situation. The purpose of the war in Gaza should not be to 'deal a strong blow to Hamas' but to topple its regime." (INN)

**MICHAEL OREN: USA EMBASSY MOVE WILL REVERBERATE AROUND THE WORLD:** The USA decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem will have ramifications that stretch much further than the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and former ambassador to the USA Michael Oren predicted Mon. 14 May 2018. Oren said: "It's important to keep sight of the global ramifications of what is going to happen today. The fact that the president of the United States made a promise to move his embassy – he did it in the face of often brutal opposition from the international community, from the media, from within the USA as well – the fact that he did this will have reverberations around the world." Oren said: "The North Koreans will take note, the Russians will take note, and everybody will take note. It's not just about moving the embassy to Jerusalem, it's about America's credibility and ability to influence world affairs and that is perhaps the greatest significance of today." (J.Post)

**NAFTALI BENNETT: 'WE WILL NEVER EVEN DISCUSS DIVIDING JERUSALEM':** Israel's minister of education and minister of diaspora affairs, Naftali Bennett said this week that the inauguration of the USA Embassy in Jerusalem is the start of a new era, one in which the international community's relationship is based on reality and fact, not fantasy and fiction. "At the most basic level, it states what has been obvious to Jews for thousands of years: Jerusalem is, has been and will always be the capital of the Jewish people. Israel named Jerusalem its capital in December 1949. By moving its embassy to Jerusalem, the United States is making a statement: Israel is no longer a second-class country whose capital isn't recognized by the world. By acknowledging Jerusalem as our capital, President Trump has given us the dignity all other nations have enjoyed. Even though Israel has long made clear that Jerusalem is its capital, we have been disrespected and our decision ignored. Today, that starts to change. (Washington Post)

**USA EMBASSY OPENS IN ISRAEL'S CAPITAL:** USA Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, spoke at the opening ceremony on Monday 14 May 2018. "On this exact day 70 years ago, at almost this exact time, David Ben Gurion declared Israel's independence. Just 11 minutes later, President Harry Truman caused the United States to be the first nation to recognize the reborn State of Israel. He later regretted that he waited so long," Ambassador Friedman said. "70 years since that memorable event, almost to the minute, the United States finally takes the next step: a step awaited, voted upon, litigated, and prayed for all these years. Today, we open the United States embassy in Jerusalem, Israel," he declared. The ambassador credited USA President Donald Trump for having the courage to open an embassy in Israel's capital. "Today's historic event is attributed to the vision, the courage, and the moral clarity of one person to whom we owe an enormous and eternal debt of gratitude, President Donald J. Trump.

"Today, we keep our promise to the American people, and we extend to Israel the same right that we extend to every other nation, the right to designate its capital city. A capital city, I should add, which houses all three seats of government, with a 3,000 year old history dating back to the time when King David made Jerusalem the capital of ancient Israel. Jerusalem has inspired Americans since well before the founding of our republic," Friedman continued. "John Winthrop, in 1630, as he approached Massachusetts Bay, spoke of his quest to build the 'new Jerusalem' as a 'City on a Hill,' a phrase expanded by President Reagan to be a 'Shining City on a Hill.' The United States established its consulate in 1844, 104 years before the birth of the State of Israel. And President Lincoln, relaxing for the first time in years as the Civil War came to an end, told his wife Mary that it was finally time for him to take some rest. And he expressed his hope and desire to visit the holy city of Jerusalem." (Arutz-7)

**USA PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP ADDRESSES OPENING OF USA EMBASSY IN JERUSALEM:** President Donald Trump addressed the ceremony in a pre-recorded video. "Israel is a sovereign nation, with the right, like any other sovereign nation, to determine its own capital. Yet for many years we failed to acknowledge the obvious, the plain reality that Israel's capital is Jerusalem. On December 6,

2017, at my direction, the United States finally and officially recognized Jerusalem as the true capital of Israel. Today we follow through on this recognition and open our embassy in the sacred land of Jerusalem," Trump said. "The United States will always be a great friend of Israel and a partner in the cause of freedom and peace." In addition to Ambassador Friedman, the USA delegation to the event included Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan, President Trump's special envoy to the Middle East Jason Greenblatt, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, Florida Governor Rick Scott, Senators Lindsey Graham, Ted Cruz, Mike Lee and Dean Heller, Congressmen Joe Wilson and Ted Deutch, Former USA Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro and First Daughter Ivanka Trump and her Husband Jared Kushner. (Arutz-7)

**‘THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE MOMENT’:** USA Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin took part in a festive event hosted by the Orthodox Union at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Jerusalem Monday morning 14 May 2018, celebrating early the official unveiling of the USA embassy in Jerusalem, that took place Monday afternoon. "This is an incredible moment," said Mnuchin, who came as part of a 250-member USA delegation headed by USA Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan. "I'm thrilled to be here on behalf of the president. It's a big day - moving the embassy here. Seventy years in the making. We're thrilled to be here representing the president to do this." Mnuchin also expressed optimism regarding the prospect for peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. "We're also determined that Iran not having nuclear weapons. The president is very focused on keeping the world safe." (Arutz-7)

**USA EMBASSY MOVE TO JERUSALEM SEEN AS ISRAELI TRIUMPH:** Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner joined hundreds of luminaries in Jerusalem to applaud the long-delayed opening of an American embassy in Israel's capital. With the move from Tel Aviv, USA President Donald Trump reversed seven decades of USA policy, defying a longstanding international consensus. But for Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, the embassy inauguration was a diplomatic triumph. On Monday, 14 May 2018 he saw the fulfillment of a cherished national goal - the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital by its most powerful ally. Speaking in Hebrew, PM Netanyahu recalled the days of his childhood, when he played on the site of what is today's USA embassy. He said today would be etched in history. (Arutz-7/Financial Times-UK)

**DOZENS OF COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE IN ISRAEL'S CELEBRATIONS OF USA EMBASSY MOVE:** An event Sunday hosted by Israel's Foreign Ministry for the USA delegation in Israel for the USA Embassy opening in Jerusalem was attended by representatives from Albania, Angola, Austria, Cameroon, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ivory Coast, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Kenya, Macedonia, Burma, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, South Sudan, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam, Paraguay, Tanzania and Zambia. (Ha'aretz)

**NETANYAHU: TRUMP MADE HISTORY:** PM Netanyahu praised USA President Donald Trump at the opening ceremony for the new American embassy in Jerusalem on Mon. 14 May 2018. "We have no better friends in the world," Netanyahu told the USA delegates at the ceremony. "You stand for Israel and you stand for Jerusalem. Thank you dear friends, what a glorious day. Remember this moment! This is history. President Trump, by recognizing history, you have made history," he declared. "All of us are deeply moved. All of us are deeply grateful," Netanyahu added. Netanyahu described his early childhood in Arnona, the same neighborhood where the embassy was opened. "My mother told me, 'you can't go any further.' This was near the border. It was sniper explosive fire. That was then. This is now. Today the embassy of the most powerful nation on earth, our greatest ally, the United States of America: today its embassy opened here." (INN)

**NETANYAHU AT EMBASSY CEREMONY: TRUMP REFLECTS THE SIMPLE TRUTH:** "President Donald Trump is making history," Netanyahu said Sunday 13 May 2018 at a reception in the Foreign Ministry attended by Trump's daughter, Ivanka, and his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, who are leading the USA delegation to the embassy opening. "We are deeply grateful, and our people will be eternally grateful, for his

bold decision.” Netanyahu said Trump’s decision reflects a simple truth: “Jerusalem has been the capital of the Jewish people for the past 3,000 years, has been the capital of our state for the past 70 years, and will remain our capital for all time. “Thank you President Trump for your bold decision! Thank you for making the alliance between Israel and the United States stronger than ever!”

The prime minister also said the truth is that not only has Jerusalem been the capital of the Jewish people since the 1st millennium BC, and the capital of the state since its inception, “the truth is that under any peace agreement that you could possibly imagine, Jerusalem will remain Israel’s capital.” According to Netanyahu, it “took a President Trump” to enunciate this “simple basic truth,” and said that once it is out there, it will spread. Highlighting that Guatemala is scheduled to move its embassy in two days, followed by Paraguay, Netanyahu said “other nations are in the process” of doing the same, though he would not specify the names of those countries. Netanyahu, who seemed buoyant during his speech, referred to Israel’s victory early Sunday morning in the Eurovision song contest, saying “Israel is a rising power in the world: in cyber, IT, water, judo, in singing. Those who didn’t want Jerusalem in the Eurovision are getting the Eurovision in Jerusalem,” he said in reference to next year’s contest now scheduled to be held in Israel as a result of Netta Barzilai’s victory. (J.Post/INN)

**JERUSALEM WELCOMES THE NEW USA EMBASSY WHILE PALESTINIANS DECRY ‘HOSTILE’ MOVE:** An American delegation including White House officials and major GOP donors officially opened the USA Embassy in Jerusalem on Mon. 14 May 2019 handing Israel a long-sought victory but touching off fresh clashes from outraged Palestinians. Near Jerusalem, at least two clashes broke out between Israeli forces and Palestinian protesters. Also on the Gaza Strip border, deadly confrontations escalated ahead of USA embassy opening in Jerusalem. Medical sources say more than 900 people were wounded, 450 of them from live fire. The death toll in the Palestinian riots on the Gaza border fence rose to 43 on Monday afternoon. (Washington Post)

**ISRAEL ATTACKS 50 IRANIAN TARGETS IN SYRIA AFTER IRAN TARGETS ISRAELI BASES:** After Iranian forces in Syria launched a rocket attack on Israeli army bases in the Golan Heights on Wed. 9 May, 2018, the IDF attacked more than 50 Iranian targets in Syria in "one of the greatest operations of the Israel Air Force in the past decade," IDF Spokesperson Brig.-Gen. Ronen Manelis said. "It will take the Iranians a long time to rehabilitate." Israel said its targets included weapons storage, logistics sites and intelligence centers used by elite Iranian forces in Syria. It also said it destroyed five Syrian air-defense batteries after coming under heavy fire. It said none of its warplanes were hit. A source in the Israeli security establishment said this attack was the largest carried out by Israel since it signed a disengagement agreement with Syria in May 1974. The Israeli military warned Syria not to respond to its attack. Israel’s Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman said Thurs. morning 10 May, 2018 that the IDF had destroyed “nearly all” of Iran’s military infrastructure sites in Syria overnight in response to a rocket barrage on Israel’s north, and warned Tehran that attacks on Israeli territory will be met with “the strongest possible force.” (Ha’aretz/NY Times)

**‘28 PLANES, 60 MISSILES, 23 KILLED’:** Israel's strikes on Syria late Wed. 9 May 2018 saw 28 planes take part in raids with a total of around 60 missiles fired, Russia's defense ministry said Thursday. "28 Israeli F-15 and F-16 aircraft were used in the attack, which released around 60 air-to-ground missiles over various parts of Syria. Israel also fired more than 10 tactical ground-to-ground missiles," the ministry said. At least 23 fighters, including five Syrian regime troops and 18 other allied forces, were killed in the attacks, according to the anti-Assad Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The Britain-based observatory said the regime troops killed in the strikes included an officer, adding that the other casualties included Syrians and foreigners. A Russian deputy foreign minister called for "restraint on all sides" and said Moscow was "concerned" at the escalation.

The Israel's army said it had hit dozens of Iranian military targets around Syria in one of its largest military operations in recent years and it's biggest such assault against Iranian targets. The strikes came hours after Israeli PM Netanyahu held talks in Moscow with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose country has provided massive military and diplomatic backing to the Assad regime in Syria. The Russian leader called the situation in the Middle East "unfortunately very acute." Israel carried out the raids after around 20 rockets were fired from Syria at its forces in the Golan Heights at around midnight. It blamed the rocket fire on Iran's Al-Quds force, adding that Israel's anti-missile system intercepted four of the projectiles while the rest did not land in its territory. The incident came after weeks of rising tensions and followed USA President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from a key 2015 Iran nuclear deal on Tues. 8 May 2018, a move Israel had long advocated. (Arutz-7)

**IRAN FIRES 20 ROCKETS AT ISRAEL FROM SYRIA:** Iranian forces in Syria fired 20 rockets into Israel early Wed. 9 May 2018, targeting IDF positions on the Golan Heights. IDF Spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus said there were no Israeli casualties. After Iranian forces in Syria launched a rocket attack on Israeli army bases in the Golan Heights, the IDF attacked more than 50 Iranian targets in Syria in "one of the greatest operations of the Israel Air Force in the past decade," IDF Spokesperson Brig.-Gen. Ronen Manelis said, "Under Iranian command 20 rockets were fired by Hezbollah experts and Shiite militias with Iranian weapons, and none of them hit Israeli territory. Four of them were intercepted by the Iron Dome and the rest landed on Syrian territory. There were no injuries and not a single post sustained damage. We also struck five batteries of the Syrian antiaircraft system, which fired dozens of missiles at our planes." The White House on Thurs. 10 May condemned the Iranian assault, two days after President Trump announced he was pulling the USA out of the Iran nuke deal. "The United States condemns the Iranian regime's provocative rocket attack from Syria against Israeli citizens, and we strongly support Israel's right to act in self-defense," Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said, "The Iranian regime's deployment into Syria of offensive rocket and missile systems aimed at Israel is an unacceptable and a highly dangerous development for the entire Middle East." (Arutz-7/NY Times/Fox)

**'NEW PHASE' IN WAR AGAINST ISRAEL BEGINNING, WARNS SYRIA:** Syria's foreign ministry said 10 May 2018, that a salvo of Israeli strikes on its territory marked a "new phase" of direct involvement in the country's seven-year conflict. It said Israel's "direct confrontation signals the start of a new phase of the war on Syria". Israel's "aggressive behavior will not lead to anything but an increase in tension in the region", the ministry said. It was "a serious threat to international peace and security". The raids overnight were the latest in a series of alleged Israeli strikes inside Syria. Since the start of Syria's civil war in 2011, Israel has repeatedly targeted positions of the Syrian army and Lebanon's Shiite terrorist movement Hezbollah backing it inside the country. (Arutz-7)

**UK, GERMANY BACK ISRAELI RIGHT TO DEFENSIVE STRIKES AGAINST IRAN IN SYRIA:** The United Kingdom and Germany defended Israel's right to launch self-defensive strikes against Iranian targets in Syria, after its warplanes struck 50 Iranian targets in Syria early Thursday morning 10 May 2018. It was one of the heaviest Israeli barrages against Syria since the Syrian Civil War began in 2011. While France and Russia urged calm, the UK and Germany spoke up for Israel, with the spokesperson for British PM Theresa May launching an unusually strong defense of the Jewish state. "We condemn Iran's attack on Israel. Israel has every right to defend itself," the spokesman told reporters. "We call on Iran to refrain from any further attacks and for calm on all sides. We call on Russia to use its influence in Syria to prevent further Iranian attacks," the United Kingdom said. The German Foreign Ministry said: "We are deeply concerned by reports about last night's Iranian rocket attacks on Israeli army outposts. "These attacks are a severe provocation that we most strongly condemn. We have always emphasized that Israel has the right to defend itself." (J.Post)

**BAHRAIN BACKS ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO SELF DEFENSE:** Israel gained support from an unexpected source Thurs. 10 May 2018 for its recent airstrikes on Iranian targets in Syria, after Iranian forces fired 20 rockets at Israeli territory the previous night. Khalid Bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Foreign Minister of the Gulf Arab state Bahrain, tweeted support for Israel and endorsed the Jewish state's right to self-defense. "As long as Iran has breached the status quo in the region and invaded countries with its forces and missiles, so any state in the region, including Israel, is entitled to defend itself by destroying sources of danger." Bahrain, a majority Sunni Muslim nation and a close ally of Saudi Arabia, has a long-running rivalry with Tehran, following the failed coup d'etat attempt by Iranian-backed terrorists to overthrow the government in 1981. On Wed. night, 9 May, 2018 Israeli forces hit a dozen targets in Syria, after 20 rockets were fired by Iranian forces at northern Israel. (Arutz-7)

**AFTER PUTIN MEETING, PM INDICATES MOSCOW WON'T CURTAIL ISRAELIS STRIKES IN SYRIA:** Wrapping up a day-long visit to Moscow, PM Netanyahu on Wed. evening 8 May 2018 said he has no reason to believe the Kremlin will attempt to limit Israel's freedom of operation in the region, an apparent reference to Israeli airstrikes in Syria. After a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Netanyahu reiterated Jerusalem's determination to continue to act militarily against Iran's ongoing entrenchment in Syria. "I told President Putin that it is our right and indeed our duty to take any steps required for to safeguard our security interests," the prime minister told reporters minutes before taking off for Tel Aviv. In his talks with Putin, Netanyahu detailed Israel's stunning discovery and removal from Tehran of Iran's own secret nuclear weapons archives. Russian intelligence officials will soon visit Israel to further examine the material, Netanyahu said. (Times of Israel)

**USA GIVES BUSINESSES 3-6 MONTHS TO 'GET OUT' OF IRAN:** Just days after USA President Donald Trump withdrew from the Iranian nuclear deal, "the highest level" of American economic sanctions have snapped back into place on Tehran and foreign corporations. The American leader chose a so-called "hard exit" from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, re-imposing all sanctions lifted as part of the atomic accord in 2015. The impact of the move is immense, influencing billions of dollars of existing contracts, given that countries will now be forced to decide whether to do business with the USA, by far the largest and most powerful economy in the world, or with the Islamic Republic. In the latter scenario, companies would risk incurring penalties as well as being cut-off from the USA financial and banking systems. While all new contracts will immediately be subjected to the sanctions regime, existing ones will have a "wind-down" period of three to six months. (Medialine)



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