

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update May 31, 2018 ***(17th of Sivan, 5778)***



DEVELOPING NEWS: THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED; GAZA APPEARS ON THE BRINK OF WAR: Three Israeli soldiers have reportedly been wounded during multiple barrages of mortar shells and short-range rockets fired by terrorist forces operating out of the Gaza Strip. At least 50 mortars and rockets were fired into southern Israel on Tues. 29 May 2018. Israel has so far responded with targeted artillery and aerial strikes on terrorist positions in Gaza, but officials are hinting that the volatile coastal enclave could be facing a far more severe Israeli response if the escalation continues. (Israel Today)

SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT LAMBASTED FOR ASKING ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM GAZA: The South African government has been mocked and criticized on Twitter since Thurs. 24 May 2018 after it posted a tweet calling on the IDF "to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and bring to an end the violent and destructive incursions into Palestinian territories," despite the fact that Israel pulled out of the Strip in 2005. Several well-known Israel advocacy figures including Hen Mazzig and human rights lawyer Arsen Ostrovsky took the government to task on Twitter in response to its ridiculous claims. "You guys either aren't very bright or just willfully ignorant & misleading," Ostrovsky wrote. "Israel withdrew completely from Gaza in 2005. But then again, I would expect nothing less from the South Africa GovernmentZA, today one of Hamas' best friends!" Mazzig wrote mockingly: "The IDF should also withdraw from the Sinai, Jordan, Iraq, Alaska and the kingdom of Narnia. Thank you GovernmentZA for this strong statement that has no connection to reality." Hundreds of others tweeted the government's Twitter account in disgust with some calling the government "morons" and "irresponsible," as well as criticizing it for ignoring the facts "just so it can bash Israel.

"You guys are SO 2005. That's when Israel unilaterally withdrew from the Gaza Strip," said Moshe Kwiat, while South African commentator and columnist Howard Feldman responded that the South African government "have got to stop BDS from writing your statements. They are making fools of you. You seriously have no idea how stupid you look. Gosh. So Embarrassing." Yaron Ramati appealed to the country's government "to have the basic decency of at least reading the relevant Wikipedia page before they comment on anything" and tweeted a link to a Wikipedia article on the disengagement from Gaza in 2005. Several Twitter users also joked that Israel will withdraw when Nelson Mandela is freed from prison; alluding to the fact that such a statement is completely backward, behind the times and misinformed. New Zealand's Zionist

Federation also tweeted that "statements like this just show how ill-informed you are about the history of and situation in Israel." South Africans also added that the government should be focused on the country's own issues such as the water crisis, sky-high crime and unemployment rates, as well as service delivery problems, instead of worrying about Israel. Other GIFs posted in response included Judge Judy shaking her head and Leonardo Di Caprio laughing hysterically. (Arutz-7)

SAUDI ARABIA STOPS NEW BUSINESS WITH GERMANY OVER ITS PRO-IRAN POLICY:

Riyadh pulled the plug on awarding government contracts to German companies, in a possible response to Berlin's pro-Iranian regime policies and its accusation that the kingdom's foreign policy constitutes "political adventurism" in the Middle East. Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman is "deeply offended" by the German government and froze new business with the Federal Republic, wrote Der Spiegel. The newsweekly's source was Detlef Daues, a German business owner active in Saudi Arabia, who said he was told by confidants in Riyadh about the prince's displeasure with Berlin. A senior German businessman in Saudi Arabia, who asked to remain anonymous, told Reuters, last week that the healthcare sector in particular was feeling added scrutiny when applying for Saudi tenders. "They have even been asking: Where are the products coming from? Are they made in Germany? Do you have other manufacturing sites? And as soon as they learn that this is made in Germany, they have been rejecting any German applications for tender," the businessman said. Saudi Arabia is a significant trade partner for Germany, accounting for exports worth €6.6 billion (\$7.7b.) in 2017, according to the Federal Republic's statistics office. (J. Post)

21 INCLUDING IRANIANS, REPORTED KILLED IN IAF STRIKE IN SYRIA:

Twenty one people were killed, including nine Iranians, in Thursday night's 24 May 2018 attack on the Dabaa military airport in central Syria, media sources reported over the weekend. The strike was reportedly aimed at terror group Hezbollah's members and militias supporting the Assad regime. According to reports, six strong explosions, allegedly caused by missile strikes, were heard in the Homs region, near the Lebanese border. Syrian air-defense systems reportedly attempted to intercept the missiles. On Friday 26 May 2018 the Lebanese army announced that a day earlier, five Israeli Air Force planes circled above Lebanese territory for some 15 hours altogether. According to the report, most of the flights took place in the southern and northern regions of Lebanon, but one of the planes was mentioned to have circled above "all regions of the country." In recent months Israel has carried out several air strikes in Syria, targeting Iranian and Iranian-linked targets. Israeli leaders have repeatedly asserted that Jerusalem would not allow Iran to gain a foothold in southern Syria. (J.Post)

NASRALLAH: IF WAR BREAKS OUT WITH ISRAEL, WE'LL WIN:

Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah said Friday 25 May 2018 that if war breaks out with Israel, Hezbollah will prevail. In a speech to mark the 18th anniversary of the Israeli pullout from southern Lebanon, Nasrallah said that "The weapons Hezbollah had before the Israeli pullout were minor and incomparable to those it possesses today." Israel violates our airspace every day," he complained. On Thurs. night 24 May 2018 the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the strikes at the Daba'a military airport were most likely carried out by Israel. The Israel Defense Forces refused to comment on the attack. The Daba'a air base and the surrounding area are known to be a stronghold for the Hezbollah terrorist group and Iran-backed militias. It was also reportedly struck by Israel in skirmishes against Syrian and Iranian forces on 10 May 2018. (Times of Israel)

REPORT: 59% OF ISRAELI CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED TO SECONDHAND SMOKE:

A new Health Ministry report showed that nearly sixty percent of Israel's children are exposed to secondhand smoke. In 2016, the Ministry examined urine samples from 103 children and sent them for analysis abroad. When the results came in, they showed that 59% contained cotinine, a byproduct of nicotine which serves as a reliable way to measure exposure to cigarette smoke. The study also compared the Israeli children's results to those of children in other countries. Israeli children were found to have a higher level of cotinine than their counterparts in Canada, Germany, and England, but lower levels than their counterparts in Poland. Even more

worrying is that Israeli children from a low socioeconomic status have higher levels of cotinine than their higher-SES counterparts. A new Health Ministry department will be responsible for monitoring biological issues, including exposure to environmental tobacco, secondhand smoke, pesticides, heavy metals, and other toxins. These levels will be used to determine and advance Health Ministry policies in the future. (INN)

PRINCE WILLIAM TO BECOME FIRST BRITISH ROYAL TO OFFICIALLY VISIT ISRAEL:

Kensington Palace says Prince William will visit Israel and the Palestinian territories at the end of June 2018 — the first British royal to make an official visit there. The prince will begin his 24-28 June trip in Amman, Jordan, then travel to Jerash in Jordan; Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in Israel; and Ramallah in Judea & Samaria. No British royal has ever made an official visit to Israel, whose “so called”, occupation of the Palestinian territories is considered illegal by the William’s father. Prince Charles attended the 2016 funeral of former Israeli President Shimon Peres in a private capacity. (Arutz-7)

POMPEO PROMISES APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR ANTI-SEMITISM:

At a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo promised that he would work towards an appointment of a Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. During testimony in front of the House committee, Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.H.) had asked Pompeo to act on the appointment of the vacant Special Envoy position. “Appointing this important position will make clear to foreign governments that combating anti-Semitism remains an American priority and that the USA maintains its traditional leadership in the fight.” The American Jewish Committee applauded the efforts by Congress to fill the anti-Semitism envoy position. (Algemeiner)

TARGETING OF JEWS IN THE NETHERLANDS HITS A 5 YEAR HIGH:

Discrimination against Jews in the Netherlands nearly doubled in 2017, reaching a five-year high that accounts for 41% of all the xenophobic incidents recorded. A report published last month by the Dutch Public Prosecution Service listed 144 confirmed criminal offenses last year involving xenophobia, including intimidation, vandalism, assault and incitement to hate or violence. Of those cases, 41% of incidents were “directed against Jews,” who account for 0.2% of the Dutch population. In March 2018 the Center for Information and Documentation on Israel, the Dutch Jewish community’s watchdog on anti-Semitism, published a report listing 117 anti-Semitic incidents in 2017, slightly higher than the 109 record the previous year. Of the 117 cases, 28 incidents involved anti-Semitic vandalism – a 10-year high in that category following a 40% increase over 2016. (Times of Israel)

IN FRENCH POLL, MAJORITY SAY ZIONISM IS A JEWISH CONSPIRACY

Only a third of the French know Israel was founded in 1948, and most believe Zionism is a conspiracy, poll finds. Zionism is a Jewish conspiracy meant to manipulate Western societies to benefit Jews. That’s the belief of a majority of 1,007 French respondents to a poll about the Jewish nationalist movement. Some 53% percent of the respondents to the survey conducted this year by the Ifop polling company agreed with the statement that “Zionism is an international organization that seeks to influence the world and societies to the Jews’ benefit.” Of those, 11% said they “strongly agree.” Half of the respondents said Zionism was a “racist ideology.” Twenty-six percent of respondents said they thought a boycott of Israel was justified. Israel’s existence “feeds anti-Semitism,” 38% of the respondents said. The poll also revealed widespread hostility toward and ignorance about Israel. (Arutz-7)

NEW YORK TEEN TO SERVE JAIL TIME FOR VANDALIZING JEWISH CEMETERY:

Eric Carbonaro, 19, of Warwick, was sentenced Wed. 23 May 2018 in Orange County Court for the October 2016 incident and apologized. He also must do 150 hours of community service. He had pleaded guilty in Feb. 2018 to two charges, including one that involved a hate crime. Carbonaro spray-painted the wall of the Beth Shalom Cemetery in Warwick, an upstate town about 50 miles from New York City, with anti-Semitic graffiti including swastikas, “Heil Hitler,” and Nazi SS symbols. Dozens of members of the Temple Beth Shalom

congregation attended the sentencing hearing, according to local reports, and several spoke in court. At the hearing, Carbonaro said, "I'm deeply sorry to the Jewish community and the community as a whole." His attorney, Alex Smith, said he had contacted Holocaust education centers on behalf of Carbonaro and they indicated a willingness to teach the teen. (Times of Israel)

SUPREME COURT REJECTS PETITION AGAINST IDF USE OF FORCE IN GAZA: The Supreme Court unanimously rejected petitions filed by extreme leftist organizations against the open-fire regulations given to IDF soldiers operating in the face of the violent riots along the Gaza border. The justices, including Chief Justice Esther Hayut, Vice President Hanan Meltzer and Judge Neal Hendel, ruled that there is ongoing fighting between Israel and Hamas. "In view of the circumstances of the violent incidents at the base of the petitions, and in the approach of the violent disturbances that involve the security barrier, we cannot rule out the Respondents' claim that there is a real and immediate danger to the IDF forces and to the citizens of Israel in the communities surrounding the Gaza Strip," Justice Meltzer wrote. "In my view, the events described are not a popular protest, nor a spontaneous protest, especially since the violations of the order of violence, the object of the petitions, created a real and imminent danger to the lives and bodily integrity of the security forces and residents of Israel. The arrangement of violence was organized, coordinated and directed by Hamas, which is a terrorist organization engaged in armed conflict with Israel. "It can be said that Hamas sought to benefit militarily from a possible breach of the security barrier, in a way that would also have helped infiltrate terrorists into Israel. In order to promote this goal, a significant number of the participants in the violent incidents and the casualties were active in Hamas, including its military apparatuses, which were sent in order to disrupt order and security and were instructed to incite the crowd, encourage its progress to Israeli territory," Justice Meltzer added. (Arutz-7)

WHY THE UN SHOULD CONDEMN HAMAS: In recent weeks, Israel has faced violence at the security fence separating our country from Gaza. Tens of thousands of Palestinians, incited by Hamas - some armed with guns, improvised explosive devices and Molotov cocktails - have approached the fence to tear down any obstacle in their way and infiltrate Israel. Instead of directing their condemnations at this internationally recognized terrorist organization for their war crimes against both Palestinians and Israelis, some countries and UN bodies have not only embraced Hamas' propaganda but have even criticized Israel's right to self-defense. Such baseless charges against Israel are morally unjust. Those who criticize Israel's legitimate actions are either unaware, or are willfully ignorant, of the clearly violent nature of what's happening at the Gaza border. Israel is defending itself from terrorists committing orchestrated attacks, not from activists leading an innocent protest. The real tragedy is that this situation was - and remains - completely avoidable. Israel removed all Jewish communities and military facilities from Gaza in 2005. In the years following, we have facilitated the transfer of billions of dollars of aid for Gaza's local population. Countries that criticize Israel must ask themselves how they would expect their security forces to react if terrorists armed with rifles and explosives marched on their borders. The UN must use its power and resources to improve the situation on the ground in Gaza and enforce change. To do so it must start by condemning Hamas for attacking Israel and for holding the people of Gaza hostage. (Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon)

DEFENSE MINISTER: ISRAEL PLANS 3,900 NEW HOMES IN JUDEA & SAMARIA: Israel's defense minister said on Thurs. 24 May 2018 that he plans to seek approval this week for the construction of some 3,900 new homes in Judea & Samaria prompting Palestinian condemnation. Avigdor Lieberman said a regional planning board would be asked to designate 1,400 of the housing units for immediate construction. "We will promote building in all of Judea & Samaria, from the north to south, in small communities and in large ones," Lieberman said. He issued the announcement two days after the Palestinians asked prosecutors at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague to launch a full investigation into accusations of Israeli human rights abuses on Palestinian territory. Settlements are one of the most heated issues in efforts to restart Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, frozen since 2014. Palestinians want Judea & Samaria for a future state, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Israel disputes that its settlements are illegal and says their future

should be determined in peace talks with the Palestinians. (Algemeiner) *In short, the Palestinian Authority demands on Israel in return for a false peace have been at every point, unreasonable, nonnegotiable filled with hypocrisy, anti-Israel bias and the brainwashing of its children and youth to hate Israel. There will be no peace with any people group with this kind of mindset.... Pray that Israel will have the courage and fortitude to build desperately needed housing, schools and community buildings within its own country!*

ABBAS REMAINS IN HOSPITAL - NATIONAL PROGNOSIS REMAINS UNCERTAIN Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who officials say is being treated for a lung infection, will remain in the hospital for several more days where he has been under care for more than a week. Abbas has been hospitalized several times over the past months. The 82-year-old leader had been expected to be released from hospital in Judea & Samaria on Sunday 28 May 2018, but this was postponed and his condition remains of concern to medical sources. The prognosis for the PA is far less promising to those under his jurisdiction who see no apparent successor to the 82-year-old Abbas and a potential blood-bath to find one. One-time Gaza security chief for the Gaza Strip Mohammed Dahlan continues to lead in the street corner debate division, but men of violence, including Marwan Barghouti – jailed by Israel for five murders – are somehow right up there as are several others who lack institutional support. Complicating planning is the house speaker who would be in line to succeed Abbas in case the incumbent dies in office, but as a Shiite, it's unlikely the opportunity will arise. (Medialine)

ICC PROSECUTOR DECLINES PA REQUEST TO OPEN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION AGAINST ISRAEL OVER GAZA DEATHS: The Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague refused the Palestinian Authority's request to open an immediate investigation against Israel over the deaths of 62 rioters during violent protests on the Gaza border last month. ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda met Tues. 22 May, 2018 with PA Foreign Minister Riad al-Maliki, who submitted the request to investigate Israel. "The mere submission of the request does not automatically lead to the opening of an investigation," Bensouda wrote in response. "Since January 16, 2015, a preliminary examination of the situation in Palestine has been conducted to determine whether there is an infrastructure for the opening of a criminal investigation and will continue to be conducted in accordance with the Rome Statute." Israel's Foreign Ministry condemned the PA move as a "a cynical move that is not legally valid. The PA continues to abuse the tribunal for political purposes rather than to promote political negotiations." (Arutz-7)

WHITE HOUSE CONSIDERING ACTIONS AGAINST PA: The United States is contemplating acting against the Palestinian Authority's (PA) mission in Washington D.C. These penalties include "closing their diplomatic mission to the United States." The United States is currently reviewing the situation and will decide if these protocols will take effect. "We are reviewing this latest development to determine if it requires changes to the operating status of the PLO office in Washington, D.C., which has been limited to activities related to achieving a lasting, comprehensive peace between the Israelis and Palestinians since November 2017," a National Security Council spokesperson told media sources. The spokesperson said that the USA views the PA's attempt to have Israel prosecuted for alleged war crimes as antithetical to the Trump Administration's attempts to restart peace negotiations between the two sides. This week, PA foreign minister Riyad al-Malki submitted a request to ICC Chief Fatou Bensouda to immediately open an investigation against the Jewish state for the deaths of 62 protesters, at least 50 of whom were members of the Hamas terrorist organization, on the Gaza border last week. Bensouda refused to open an immediate investigation against Israel. (Arutz-7)

IRAN: 'OUR MILITARY IS MORE PREPARED THAN EVER FOR WAR': The chief of the Iranian military warned that his country was "more prepared now than ever" for hostilities, defying the United States after USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the Trump administration would impose the "strongest sanctions in history" on the Tehran regime. This week Pompeo unveiled the administration's plans for new

sanctions on the rogue state, warning Iran that it would be forced to either “fight to keep its economy off life supports systems at home, or keep squandering precious wealth in fights abroad. It will not have the resources to do both.” Pompeo said the USA would maintain the new, expanded sanctions until Tehran accepts the administration’s demands, including “unqualified access” to all suspected nuclear sites in Iran, closure of Iran’s heavy water reactor, and an end to funding for Middle East terror groups like Hezbollah. On Wed. 23 May 2018, Major General of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard, Mohammad Bagheri, issued a response to Pompeo’s announcement, declaring that Iran would not “wait for the permission of foreign powers to develop defense capabilities” and warned that his country’s military was “more prepared than ever” for conflict or war. (INN)

IRAN’S SECRET MISSILE FACILITY EXPOSED: A California weapons research team has discovered evidence that Iran continues to develop advanced missiles at a secret facility, the NY Times reported Wed. 23 May 2018. An analysis of satellite images showed that the facility's activity is focused on the development of advanced rocket engines and rocket fuel, and that the activity is often carried out under cover of night. The facility is named the Shahrud Facility and is located about 250 miles east of Tehran. The discovery rekindled fears of Tehran's intentions to develop intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) capable of reaching far beyond the Middle East. Such plans were thought to have experienced a major setback when a previous facility exploded in 2011. Michael Elleman, a missile expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, called the evidence "disturbing." The work done at the facility could be the beginning of Tehran's plans for "developing an ICBM five to 10 years down the road, should Tehran wish to do so," said Elleman. (Arutz-7)

LOUISIANA WON’T DO BUSINESS WITH BDS SUPPORTERS: Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards issued on 22 May 2018 an executive order prohibiting Louisiana state government from doing business with companies that boycott Israel. Louisiana is the twenty-fifth USA state to enact legislation of this kind, and numerous municipalities have done so as well. Edwards' executive order specifically mentions BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions), a campaign which is intended to isolate, weaken and ultimately destroy the Jewish state. "The state of Louisiana unequivocally rejects the BDS campaign and stands firmly with Israel," reads Edwards' executive order. In the future, companies will be required to certify that they aren't boycotting Israel before being awarded a state contract. Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards issued the order on the same night that he was celebrating the 70th anniversary of Israel at the governor's mansion. (INN)

CANCER REMAINS ISRAEL’S BIGGEST KILLER: Cancer was – as it has been since 1999 – the leading cause of death among Israeli men and women according to a new Health Ministry report on the leading causes of death between 2000 and 2015. Heart disease was the second-leading cause of death in 2015. It was responsible for 15% of all deaths, which is the most common cause among women aged 75 and older and the second-most common among women aged 45 to 74 and men age 45 and older. (J.Post)

RARE JEWISH COINS FOUND IN TEMPLE MOUNT EXCAVATION: Five exceptionally rare ancient coins from among the very first ever minted by Jews were discovered on the Temple Mount, evidence of Jewish activity at the disputed site. The small coins—three in pristine condition and two showing signs of wear—were discovered as part of the Temple Mount Sifting Project, an archaeological initiative started in order to sift thousands of tons of dirt illegally excavated and dumped in the Kidron Valley by the Islamic Waqf in 1999. The Waqf excavations compromised the archaeological integrity of the Temple Mount and sparked outrage in Israel, leading many to suggest that the Waqf was intentionally attempting to eradicate evidence of two Jewish temples that stood on the Mount for over 800 years. The sifting project, which has operated since 2004 and aims to salvage religious and historical artifacts from the rubble, as well as to educate the public about the veracity of Jewish history on the Mount. (CharismaNews)

TRUMP THE MOST PRO-LIFE PRESIDENT IN HISTORY: USA President Donald Trump has stood up for the humanity of the unborn child like no president in recent memory. And this is why so many Christian conservatives stick with him. Trump received a foot-stomping standing ovation Tues. night 22 May

2018, at the annual Campaign for Life gala of the pro-life Susan B. Anthony List. Not only was Trump the first president to address this incredible organization in its 26-year history, he used the occasion to deliver on yet another pro-life promise, one that his Republican predecessors could not, or would not, fulfill: He announced a new rule to stop indirect taxpayer funding of abortion through the Title X family planning program. Since taking office, Trump has taken many steps to ensure American taxpayer's dollars are not used to subsidize the taking of innocent human life. He got a record number of conservative judges confirmed during his first year; allowed states to defund Planned Parenthood; defunded the pro-abortion UN Population Fund; restored and expanded the Mexico City policy banning taxpayer funds for groups that perform abortions overseas; and exempted organizations with moral objections against providing abortifacient drugs from the Obamacare Health and Human Services mandate. He is, as SBA List President Marjorie Dannenfelser put it, "the most pro-life president in our nation's history." "Every life is sacred, and every child is a precious gift from God," Trump declared Tues. night. "We know that every life has meaning and that every life is totally worth protecting." Trump is doing everything in his power to protect those lives. (Fox)



Robert I. Solomon: Messianic Rabbi, rabbisolomon@yachad.com

Jeffery Blalock: Ministries Coordinator, jeffery@yachad.com

Yachad Ministries, 950 Pine Grove Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075

E-mail: info@yachad.com, Web Page: www.yachad.com

Phone: 770-641-3000 (ext. 6)

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