

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update June 21, 2018 ***(8th of Tamuz, 5778)***



MORE JEWISH IMMIGRANTS SETTLING IN JERUSALEM: The total number of immigrants (olim) to Israel living in Jerusalem within 10 years of their arrival in Israel currently stands at 23,122. This number includes 6,764 immigrants from the USA, 6,169 immigrants from France, and 3,618 immigrants from the Former Soviet Union. According to Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, "One of the city's challenges is to remain attractive to young people and immigrants. Today, the city absorbs the highest number and percentage of immigrants. In the past five years (2012-2017), 20,547 immigrants arrived in Jerusalem and 6,735 left. Their contribution to the city is huge - 13,812 people - representing a quarter of the city's natural growth. Our upcoming challenges include expanding the Etzion Ulpan to be a magnet for young immigrants, [Ulpan Etzion Jerusalem is Israel's intensive Hebrew learning program that has served as the model for all ulpanim catering to new immigrants], creating absorption facilities for immigrants to live in, and turning the city into one which receives preferential treatment from the government." Absorption Authority Director Pinny Galinkovich noted that most immigrants who speak English, Spanish, and Portuguese come to Jerusalem, and most immigrants are young. He also spoke about the various aid programs offered by the city, including cultural programs, educational programs, housing, employment, and post-immigration counseling. (Arutz-7)

IAF STRIKES 9 HAMAS TARGETS IN RESPONSE TO KITE TERRORISM: Israel Air Force jets attacked nine Hamas targets in the northern Gaza Strip early Mon. 18 June 2018, in what were the most significant strikes in the fight against the incendiary kites and balloons terrorism. The strikes hit two military bases in Jabalia, Al-Shati and a weapons production facility in Gaza City. During the strike, three rockets were fired at the Hof Ashkelon Regional Council, with one apparently falling inside the Strip. No casualties were reported from the rockets or air strikes. The IDF Spokesman's Office said the strikes were in response to the incendiary and explosive balloons and kites being launched at Israel from the Gaza Strip. "These are terror attacks that endanger the residents of southern Israel," the IDF said. "In recent days, the IDF carried out several attacks near the cells responsible for the arson and destruction of lands in Israel as well as infrastructure used by these cells," the army added.

The IDF has also recently taken measured steps in the Gaza Strip, firing warning shots from the air and destroying property belonging to the kite launchers but has refrained from targeting them. Some Israeli ministers have called for those launchers to be targeted directly. The kite terrorism has been plaguing the Gaza border communities for two and a half months now. Palestinians have sent kites dangling coal embers or burning rags across the Gaza border to set fire to arid farmland and forests, others have carried small

explosive devices in a new tactic that has caused extensive damage. Seventeen fires broke out on Sunday 17 June 2018 as a result of the incendiary kites and balloons, with hundreds of turkeys suffocating to death in Ein HaShlosha from smoke inhalation. Earlier, police sappers were called to a home in south Israel after two balloons carrying incendiary devices landed in a residential backyard tree. (Ynet)

ISRAEL FOILS HAMAS PLOT TO BOMB JERUSALEM, TEL AVIV: Israeli security forces recently exposed a Hamas terror cell operating in the Nablus area, which planned to carry out attacks in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Security forces found explosive devices, one of which weighed 10 kg. and could be detonated remotely. A firearm and bomb-manufacturing instructions were also found. As part of their investigation, security forces uncovered and foiled another Hamas cell which was plotting to carry out attacks. PM Netanyahu said of the incidents, "Hamas is trying to harm us from Gaza and from Judea & Samaria. That is the reason that we will continue to maintain security control over the entire area west of the Jordan River." (Ynet)

UK DEMANDS UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL DROP ANTI-ISRAEL BIAS: The United Kingdom condemned the UN Human Rights Council on Mon. 18 June 2018 over the body's long-standing anti-Israel bias, demanding the council drop a controversial agenda item placing Israel under intense scrutiny. British foreign affairs chief Boris Johnson slammed the UN Human Rights Council – a 47-member body headquartered in Geneva – calling on the council to drop Agenda Item 7, an item which has made the Israel-Arab conflict a permanent focus of the council. Speaking at the opening of the UNHRC's 38th session, Johnson said that the UK viewed Agenda Item 7 as "disproportionate" and "damaging". Johnson also threatened to vote against all motions brought under Agenda Item 7 in the future. "We share the view that the dedicated Agenda Item 7 focused solely on Israel and the Occupied [Disputed] Palestinian Territories is disproportionate and damaging to the cause of peace, and unless things change we shall vote next year against all resolutions introduced under Item 7," Johnson said. (INN)

IRAN-BACKED SYRIAN TERRORISTS CHANGE UNIFORMS, HEAD TOWARD GOLAN: Syrian rebel sources claim up to 500 Iranian-backed terrorists and members of the Hezbollah terrorist group changed uniforms and are digging in near the Golan in preparation for a major offensive. They are reportedly concentrating in an area dubbed the "triangle of death" near the Golan Heights, as the Syrian regime prepares its major post-Ramadan offensive. The offensive is designed to defeat the rebels in southern Syria and has raised concerns in Jerusalem, Washington, Moscow and Amman as a potential crisis looms. This comes as Israel continues warning the Syrian regime to remove Iranian forces from the country. On Sunday 17 June 2018, PM Netanyahu said he reiterated Israel's demand that Iran withdraw from all of Syria, in conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin and USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo over the weekend. With the defeat of Syrian rebels in Damascus, the regime has begun to concentrate forces along its long front line that stretches from the environs of the southern Damascus countryside down to Daraa near the Jordanian border. This front line ranges from 10 kilometers to just one kilometer from the Israel's Golan Heights. Israel previously stressed to Moscow and Washington that Iranian forces must be kept 40-60 km. (25-37 mi.) from the Golan border. (J.Post)

PRO-IRANIAN HEZBOLLAH TERRORIST GROUP USES BEIRUT AIRPORT AS SMUGGLING POINT: According to media reports, the Lebanese are corrupting the Beirut airport and facilitating the smuggling of weapons and drugs, and enabling the transition of pro-Iranian fighters to other countries from the civil wars in the Middle East. Hezbollah allowed the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to take the Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport as a base for Iranian regime operations, which consists of transporting weapons and fighters to locations and countries serving the Revolutionary Guards' strategy for regional intervention. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps plays the leading role in fueling major wars in the Middle East, including the current wars in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Lebanon. The IRGC declared its strategy of meddling in the region in 1990, following the establishment of the Quds Force. The regime's inner

circles describe the Quds Force as the “center of an international Islamic army.” Iran continues its strategy and agenda of sowing mayhem and continues its effort to destroy the Jewish state. (Washington Times)

WOMAN CHASING AFTER JEWISH KIDS WITH KNIFE ARRESTED IN LONDON: A woman was arrested in a London neighborhood for running after Jewish children while brandishing a knife and shouting “I want to kill all you Jews.” The incident took place on Sunday evening 17 June in Stamford Hill, which has a large haredi Orthodox population. Some 15 children aged 8 to 15 were walking home from a local synagogue following the evening prayer service. London Police were alerted to the threat by the Shomrim neighborhood watch group, according to the London-based Jewish Chronicle. The woman, 47, was arrested on suspicion of a “racially aggravated public order offense,” police told the newspaper. She was sent for a mental health evaluation. (Arutz-7)

ISRAELI COMPANY INVENTS PLASTIC PACKAGING THAT DECOMPOSES: Israel-based TIPA has invented film that is 100% compostable. TIPA packaging disintegrates into water, carbon dioxide and organic matter that bacteria then degrade. “No practical technology exists to recycle plastic film. If we toss it out with bottles, the recycling plants shrug, weed out the bottles by machine and throw the rest into landfills”, explains Merav Koren. She is marketing director for TIPA, an Israel-based company that aims to change all this by making 100% compostable packaging film. “TIPA films look like plastic and behave like plastic but end life like an orange peel,” says Koren. “Every aspect of it, from the packaging's film to its adhesive, is 100 percent compostable. Not a molecule will be added to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch located between Hawaii and California. Unlike conventional plastic, this wrapping will not stay with us and our children's children forever more.” (Ha'aretz)

HEZBOLLAH TO BE OUTLAWED IN BRITAIN: British Home Secretary Sajid Javid will take steps to ban Hezbollah later this year, a senior Conservative source has said. Hezbollah’s military wing was banned as a terror group in Britain in 2008, but a legal loophole allows supporters to fly its flags at events such as this month’s Al Quds Day rally in London because Hezbollah’s political arm is not banned. “Sajid has vowed to take decisive action on the matter. He will make this very clear over the forthcoming weeks,” the source said. Phillip Hollobone, Conservative MP for Kettering, said: “Hezbollah’s is an Iranian creation that sits as the crown jewel in Iran's regional strategy of Jihadi revolutionary warfare. It is in short the most powerful armed non-state actor in the world. This is an organization which potentially is more lethal than ISIS, and it is all backed and funded by Iran.” (Jewish Chronicle-UK)

USA EXPECTED TO WITHDRAW FROM UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: The USA is reportedly planning to pull out of the United Nations Human Rights Council after clashes over key issues such as Israel. A source told Reuters that the move could be “imminent.” The council will begin a three-week session in Geneva on Monday 18 June 2018. Other diplomatic sources said that the withdrawal was “not a question of if but of when.” USA Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley has clashed with the council over its treatment of Israel and has repeatedly voted against UN measures that were critical of that country. Most recently, the USA and Australia were the only two members to vote against a proposal to investigate Israel’s alleged use of excessive force in Gaza.

Haley has criticized the council over what she called a “chronic anti-Israel bias” and threatened last year to leave. “When the council passes more than 70 resolutions against Israel, a country with a strong human rights record, and just seven resolutions against Iran, a country with an abysmal human rights record, you know something is seriously wrong,” said Haley. Haley has also called for other reforms to the body, including making it easier to expel member states with poor human rights records, specifically Venezuela, China and Saudi Arabia. Swiss Ambassador Valentin Zellweger said that he agrees with Haley that “not all members fulfill the criteria” for membership to the council, but expressed concern over the potential withdrawal. “The

decision by the Americans will have a profound impact on the Council. If they withdraw, we can expect significant consequences.” (The Hill/Reuters)

SUSPECTED ISLAMIC EXTREMIST RICIN ATTACK FOILED IN GERMANY: An Islamic terrorism plot to launch a deadly attack with the toxin ricin was reportedly thwarted in Germany, prosecutors revealed Thurs. 14 June 2018. Authorities said a 29-year-old Tunisian, identified only as Sief Allah H., was taken into custody after an investigation uncovered he had procured the materials needed to create ricin in mid-May and even succeeded in creating the toxin earlier this month. Investigators found the toxin after a search of his apartment in Cologne. "He procured 1,000 castor bean seeds online as well as an electronic coffee grinder," they said. The shell of the castor bean plant seed is highly poisonous and can be used to create ricin. Prosecutors said they are still investigating exactly how the suspect planned to use the toxin, and said he was working on a “biological weapon” attack in Germany. If inhaled, ricin causes difficulty breathing and other symptoms. If ingested, symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, hallucinations and seizures. The suspect supposedly used instructions for the making of a ricin bomb that had been posted online by the extremist ISIS group. (Fox)

WAQF GETS RID OF PRICELESS TEMPLE ERA REMAINS: The Muslim Waqf has made use of the closure of the Temple Mount to Jews during the final week of Ramadan to get rid of large mounds of dirt containing sacred and archaeologically valuable artifacts from the times of the Jewish Temples. According to Arnon Segal writing in Makor Rishon, during the final week of the month of Ramadan, about 1,000 workers were employed to use the dirt for construction of new terraces and if possible to truck part of it out of the compound to unknown locations. The dirt was originally dug up in 1999, when the Waqf carried out large scale illegal construction on the Mount, to create a new mosque in the section of the Mount known as Solomon's Stables. At that time, 400 truckloads of archaeologically valuable dirt were evacuated and dumped into city landfills and the Kidron stream. Eventually, the Israeli authorities intervened and the dirt that had not yet been dumped was saved. Since then, the Waqf has been planning to get rid of the mounds of dirt. This Ramadan provided the opportunity the Waqf had been waiting for. With Jews banned from the Mount for the week that includes Eid al-Fitr – it could carry out its surreptitious plans without being noticed. (Arutz-7)

RUSSIA HOLDS NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION IN JERUSALEM: The annual Russia Day celebration put on by the Russian embassy took on added significance on Thurs. 14 June 2018, because it was held in Jerusalem, the first national day to be held in the capital by any country in recent memory. “I am delighted to be here,” said PM Netanyahu in the picturesque Sergei Courtyard in Jerusalem. Netanyahu said that he has “great respect for Russia for its contributions to civilization and for the courage of its people.” The prime minister noted the critical role the Red Army played in the defeat of Nazi Germany, saying “we never forget the sacrifice of the Russian people and the Red Army in the defeat of the Nazi monster.” Netanyahu said that the relationship between Israel and Russia is “born of common history and common interests,” including being “united in a common fight against terrorism.” Netanyahu also thanked Russian President Vladimir Putin for his “fight against anti-Semitism.” Russia’s ambassador, Anatoly Viktorov, said that holding the reception in the Sergei Courtyard was in line with Russia’s statement last year that “we view west Jerusalem as the capital of Israel”. (J.Post)

NETANYAHU MEETS WITH SENIOR MUSLIM LEADER: PM Benjamin Netanyahu met on 14 June 2018 with the Secretary-General of the World Muslim Organization, Sheikh Yahya Chulil Stakof, in his office in Jerusalem. PM Netanyahu said at the meeting that Muslim countries are approaching Israel for security against ISIS and for Israel's technological advancement. Netanyahu added that "Israel is a nation of innovation and I am happy to see that the Arab countries and many Muslim countries are approaching Israel, and I hope that there will be progress in relations with Indonesia as well." (INN)

NETANYAHU LAUDS TRUMP'S IMPORTANT STEP IN DENUCLEARIZATION OF KOREA: PM Netanyahu commended USA President Donald Trump on 12 June 2018 on the "historic summit" in Singapore with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. "This is an important step in the effort to rid the Korean peninsula of nuclear weapons," said Netanyahu. Circling back to the region, the prime minister added, "President Trump has also taken a strong stand against Iran's efforts to arm itself with nuclear weapons and against its aggression in the Middle East. This is already affecting the Iranian economy. President Trump's policy is an important development for Israel, the region and the world." Trump and Kim signed a "comprehensive" document on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula after a three-and-a-half-hour meeting. (Ynet)

TOURISM TO ISRAEL KEEPS RISING DESPITE VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTH: Figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics this week show that 395,900 tourists came to Israel in May 2018, about 14% more than in May last year and 33% more than in May 2016. The Ministry of Tourism points out that this was despite forecasts that the security situation in the south of Israel could adversely affect the upward trend in incoming tourism. According to the Ministry of Tourism, tourism has injected more than \$2.6 billion into the Israeli economy so far this year. Minister of Tourism Yariv Levin said, "Once again, in May, we see increases in the number of tourists visiting Israel, maintaining a consecutive 19-month period of increasing tourist figures. The opening of new routes, such as the route from India, and ongoing marketing activities such as those surrounding the Giro d'Italia race, are bearing fruit." (Globes)

CRUSADER MARKET, ANCIENT PROMENADE UNVEILED IN CAESAREA: Newly unearthed promenade walls and a Crusaders' market dating back to the 13th century were unveiled in a festive event in the Israeli port city of Caesarea this week. The ancient sites are now accessible to the public for the first time in hundreds of years, the latest development in one of the largest archaeological projects ever undertaken in Israel. The inauguration comes after extensive excavations and restoration work carried out by the Israel Antiquities Authority with the help of funding from the Edmond de Rothschild Foundation and the Caesarea Development Corporation. The Foundation has invested roughly \$42 million in the Caesarea project, in a bid to restore numerous local archaeological sites with a view to transforming the area into Israel's leading tourist attraction. "Tonight's event is dedicated to the unveiling of the Crusaders' Wall Promenade built by the French King Louis IX 800 years ago," said Michael Karsenti, CEO of the Caesarea Development Corporation. "For hundreds of years, it was buried beneath the ground and inaccessible until now," Located on Israel's Mediterranean coast, Caesarea was built by Herod the Great more than 2,000 years ago. It has a long and rich history as an important port city in the region. (Medialine)

ISRAEL TO TOP UP SEA OF GALILEE AFTER YEARS OF DROUGHT: The shrinking Sea of Galilee, the inland lake where Christians believe Yeshua walked on water, is to be topped up with desalinated seawater. A plan given Israeli cabinet approval will pump 100 million cubic meters of water annually by 2022 into the lake in the Galilee region. In 2017 Israel's water authority said the sea, hit by years of drought, had reached its lowest level in a century. Situated 656ft below sea level, the Sea of Galilee is mentioned in the Bible as the site of a number of Yeshua's miracles. Known in Hebrew as Lake Kinneret, it covers an area of roughly 62 square miles. Ten years ago it provided 400m cubic meters a year of fresh water and was the country's largest freshwater reserve. But a series of dry winters have reduced its level to such an extent that pumping had to be limited to 30-40m cubic meters a year. Israel has managed to escape water cuts through the use of five desalination plants built along the Mediterranean coast. Yechezkel Lifshitz from the country's energy and water ministry said they supplied 670m cubic meters annually – 80% of drinking water consumed by Israeli households. He said two more plants would be built to serve the new project: one in the Galilee and another south of Jerusalem. The water would then be pumped into the lake's tributaries in northern Israel. (UK Guardian)

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY BLAMES ISRAEL FOR GAZA VIOLENCE, BUT NOT HAMAS: The UN General Assembly, in a 120-8 vote with 45 abstentions, approved a non-binding resolution on 13 June 2018, blaming Israel for violence in Gaza and deploring its "excessive use of force," after narrowly rejecting a USA demand to add a condemnation of attacks on Israel by Hamas. The USA amendment was approved by 62 to 58, with 42 abstentions, but a 2/3 majority was needed so the amendment failed. USA Ambassador Nikki Haley said afterward, "Today, a plurality of 62 countries voted in favor of the USA-led effort to address Hamas' responsibility for the disastrous conditions in Gaza." She additionally reprimanded the UN General Assembly for its bias: "This resolution is totally one-sided. It makes not one mention of Hamas, who routinely initiates violence in Gaza. At what point will the UN actually hold accountable those who are in charge of Gaza and running it into the ground?" The office of the Prime Minister issued a statement saying Israel appreciates the Trump administration's steadfast support for Israel at the UN and Ambassador Haley's strong words exposing the hypocrisy of the UN's bias against Israel. (Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs)

ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER: HAMAS MUST RETURN MISSING ISRAELIS BEFORE RECEIVING HUMANITARIAN AID PACKAGE: Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman this week called for an end to the illusions and delusions that improving the Gaza economy will end terror. "There are three reasons for the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza," Lieberman told Israel Army Radio. The first, he said, was PA President Mahmoud Abbas, "who one day decided to stop transferring funds to Gaza. Just last week he transferred half of the April salaries." The second reason was Hamas, "which invests millions of dollars on attack tunnels, and isn't willing to funnel a single shekel to the education or healthcare systems in the Strip." But the primary obstacle was Hamas' objection to returning the Israeli captives in Gaza - civilians Avera Mengistu and Hisham a-Sayed - and the bodies of IDF soldiers Hadar Goldin and Oron Shaul which were snatched in the 2014 war. Hamas "can get a generous humanitarian package if it returns the missing Israelis," Lieberman said. (Times of Israel)

PA: WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT TERRORISTS AND THEIR FAMILIES: The Palestinian Authority government in Ramallah sent a defiant message to the United States and Israel on 11 June 2018 regarding its support for terrorists and their families. Yusuf al-Mahmoud, spokesman for the PA government, said in this context that "there is no force in the world that can cause us to renounce our prisoners and the martyrs [terrorists]." He said Israel bore full responsibility for the situation of the Palestinian Arabs and claimed that it was "stealing their money on the pretext of offsetting tax revenues." Days ago PM Netanyahu instructed Meir Shabbat, chief of Israel's National Security Council, to deduct money from the taxes collected by Israel on behalf of the Palestinian Authority in order to pay for the damage from fires caused by Gazan rioter-terrorists sending kites attached to firebombs into Israeli territory. On Saturday 9 June alone, the terror kites sparked 17 fires.

The PA regularly pays terrorists who are imprisoned in Israel, as well as families of dead terrorists who carried out attacks against Israelis. The PA policy of paying higher salaries to terrorists serving longer sentences means that the more heinous and deadly the terror attack, the more the terrorist is rewarded by the PA for committing murder. According to Palestinian Authority figures, the monthly allowance per prisoner is higher than that of an active member of the PA security forces. The PA budget for payments to terrorists in Israeli prisons skyrocketed to \$158 million in 2017. Despite calls from both Israel and the United States to stop the practice of paying terrorists, PA chairman Abbas has repeatedly stressed that "families of the martyrs will continue to receive their allowances in full." (Arutz-7)

'CATASTROPHIC' RISK OF DEATH OR 300,000 YEMENI CHILDREN TRAPPED BY ATTACK: Some 300,000 children risk death, injury and starvation as they are trapped in Yemen's main port city which is under assault from Saudi-led Arab states, aid groups said on 12 June 2018. The biggest battle in a three-year war, which has already created the world's leading humanitarian crisis, centers on Hodeidah, the main route for food and aid to reach most Yemenis, 8.4 million of who are on the verge of famine. Jolien Veldwijk,

acting country director for the charity CARE International called the attack "catastrophic, hopeless and devastating", worsening hunger as food will become harder to find and more expensive. "If the port closed, even for a day, then the number of people at risk of famine will increase because no food will come into the country," she said. "Kids are most vulnerable so they will die first." The UN estimates that 600,000 people live in the area, and in a worst-case scenario, a battle could cost up to 250,000 lives, as well as cutting off aid and other supplies to millions of people. (J.Post)



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