

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update July 26, 2018 ***(14th of Av, 5778)***



For the Yachad Report Newsletter For July 2018

ISRAEL BLASTS CNN's COVERAGE: 'STOP YOUR MANIPULATIONS': The Israeli Foreign Ministry chastised the Cable News Network (CNN) last weekend, after the network released a news brief which appeared to reverse the order of events in the latest clashes between Israel and the Hamas terror organization. On Friday, 20 July 2018 terrorists operating out of the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip opened fire on Israeli soldiers stationed on the border, killing 20-year-old Givati Brigade Staff Sergeant Aviv Levi. In response to the terror attack, Israeli fighter jets pounded Hamas positions inside the Gaza Strip, hitting roughly 60 different terror targets in the Hamas-ruled coastal enclave. A day later, Gaza-based terrorists breached the Israeli border fence, prompting the IDF to shell a Hamas observation post in the Strip. But a news brief by CNN International on Saturday 21 July presented the events in reverse order, and made no mention that the Israeli airstrikes had been in direct response to the Hamas attack. CNN International wrote, "Israel says one of its tanks targeted a Hamas military post in Gaza Saturday in retaliation for a border fence breach, one day after violence that left four Palestinians, including three Hamas militants, and an Israeli soldier dead." Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon responded via Twitter to the CNN news brief, accusing the media outlet of manipulation. "No CNN !!! You got it wrong and not for the first time - an Israeli soldier was killed by Hamas and IDF retaliated, protecting its country and citizens against murderous terrorists. By misrepresenting the facts you manipulate against Israel! STOP YOUR MANIPULATION!" CNN made no official response to the Israeli Foreign Ministry. (Arutz-7)

STEINTZ WARNS OF 'BROAD MILITARY OPERATIONS' AGAINST HAMAS: Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz warned that recent escalations in violence between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip region may lead to a conflagration of war. "The situation is going to be a quiet established under the framework of an agreement, or it will be a flare up that could be very severe including a broad military operation," Steinitz said. The violence rose to a point on Friday, 20 July 2018 in which sniper fire from the Gaza Strip killed 21-year-old Givati brigade infantryman, Aviv Levi. The IDF responded by striking more than 60 Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip and killing several members of the terrorist organization. According to Israeli news sources Egypt had warned Hamas that any response on its part to the retaliatory strikes by the IDF would force Israel to go to war within two hours. The Energy Minister also touched upon the incompetence of the Palestinian Authority (PA) to govern over Arabs in Judea, Samaria as well as Gaza.

“Almost 20 years after the establishment of the Palestinian Authority, we see its total failure.” The PA was handed the Gaza Strip after Israel withdrew all soldiers and Jewish residents from the area in 2005. However, by 2007, Hamas took control over Gaza after successfully kicking the PA out during clashes in the summer of 2007. “The PA is anti-Semitic and does not function democratically or economically,” Steinitz added. (Arutz-7)

TRUMP'S MIDEAST PEACE TEAM TO HAMAS: STOP TERROR IN EXCHANGE FOR AID: Senior Advisor to USA President Donald Trump Jared Kushner, Top Negotiator Jason Greenblatt and USA Ambassador to Israel David Friedman called on Hamas to stop terror, return Israeli prisoners to their families and, in exchange, receive aid to improve the situation in the Gaza Strip in a recent column published by the Washington Post. "International donors are conflicted: Should they try to help the people directly, at the certain risk of enriching terrorists, or withhold funding to Hamas and watch the people it is supposed to govern suffer?" The piece explained the dilemma in providing humanitarian aid to the coastal enclave, clarifying that in the past any form of aid had been weaponized instead of being used for civilian purposes. "Until governance changes or Hamas recognizes the state of Israel, abides by previous diplomatic agreements and renounces violence, there is no good option," the article pronounced. "Seventy years after the founding of Israel, it would be wise for Hamas to acknowledge that the existence of Israel is a permanent reality," the piece added, arguing that the existence of Israel was an accepted fact in almost all of the Middle East. On his Twitter account Greenblatt, clearly aimed at Gaza residents, wrote in Arabic "If Gaza lives in peace with its neighbors, it can be a tourist destination like Sharm el-Sheikh and Tel Aviv. But with the leadership of Hamas, seawater that can provide suitable conditions for the establishment of resorts has become dangerous due to untreated sewage. There is no money to pay for wastewater treatment or to provide electricity because Hamas spends Palestinian money on terrorism instead." (J.Post)

BENNETT: TERROR IN NORTH AND SOUTH IS LED BY IRAN: Israel's Education Minister Naftali Bennett on Mon. 23 July, 2018 responded to the security situation in Israel's north and south. "The terror events in the north and south are caused by the head of the snake - Iran," he said. "The Iranians want to make us fight on two fronts at once. We can prevent terror even without sending ground forces into Gaza, and we will continue that policy." On Monday morning, concerns of spillover from Syria's civil war led the IDF to fire two "David's Sling" interceptors at missiles fired near the Syrian border. On Friday, 20 July, 2018 Hamas snipers killed IDF soldier Aviv Levi. In response, the IDF struck 60 Hamas terror targets. (Arutz-7)

NIKKI HALEY: SOMETHING 'REMARKABLE HAPPENED IN THE UN': On 13 June 2018, Algeria proposed a resolution blaming Israel for the recent escalations on the Gaza border, completely ignoring the violent Gaza border riots, rockets fired by Gaza terrorists at Israel, and incendiary kites and balloons sent by Gazan terrorists into Israeli territory which scorched thousands of acres of nature reserves, forests, and agricultural land. In response, United States Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley proposed an amendment to the resolution, placing some of the blame on Hamas' shoulders. "Nothing like this had ever been done before at the United Nations. Hundreds of resolutions passed by the General Assembly dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have failed even to mention Hamas," the CNN op-ed noted. "What happened next was the beginning of a paradigm shift." In the vote that followed, the USA amendment passed with a vote of 78-59. Calling the vote "a miracle by UN standards," they noted that for "the first time in the United Nations, more nations than not acknowledged that peace between Israel and the Palestinian people must be built on a foundation of truth regarding Hamas. They recognized that reconciliation is impossible if reality is denied for the sake of scoring political points. And part of that reality is recognizing the primary responsibility Hamas bears in perpetuating the suffering of the people of Gaza. (Arutz-7)

TRUMP TO IRAN: NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE USA AGAIN: USA President Donald Trump on Sunday night, 22 July 2018, replied to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's threat that "playing with the lion's tail" would lead to "the mother of all wars." In a tweet, Trump wrote, "To Iranian President Rouhani: NEVER,

EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE. WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!" Also Sun. night, USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, "The level of corruption and wealth among regime leaders shows that Iran is run by something that resembles the mafia." Pointing out that many Iranians have been protesting their government, Pompeo continued, "All those voicing dissatisfaction share one thing: they have been ill-treated by a Revolutionary regime. Iranians want to be governed with dignity, accountability and consent." Iranian President Hassan Rouhani warned the USA on Sunday that it could shut down international oil shipments in the Strait of Hormuz if Washington continued to provoke Tehran. "Americans should know that a war with Iran would be the mother of all wars," he said. (INN)

ISRAEL HELPS RESCUE HUMANITARIAN WORKERS FROM SYRIA: Israel at the weekend played a critical role in rescuing hundreds of humanitarian workers and their families trapped in southern Syria. Eight hundred so-called "White Helmets" and their family members had taken refuge in Quneitra, the one small part of southern Syria not already under the control of Russian-backed regime forces. The White Helmets are mostly Syrian nationals who over the past several years have taken it upon themselves to conduct rescue operations following major military confrontations in the war-torn country. They operate mostly in rebel-held territory where nearly all civil services have collapsed. But, that's resulted in them being identified with opposition forces, and therefore a target for the Syrian army. The USA, UK, Germany and Canada had all been aiding the White Helmets logistically in recent months. As it became clear that the forces of dictator Bashar Assad would reconquer the south of Syria, those same nations lobbied Israel and Jordan to help get them out, with the promise that the White Helmets and their families could then take up residence in the West. Last weekend, a convoy of buses carrying the White Helmets streamed into northern Israel under cover of darkness. They were then escorted by Israeli and UN forces to a border crossing into Jordan. Israelis involved in the rescue operation said that it was one of the most emotional efforts to help Syria to date. (Israel Today)

UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS GAZA ESCALATION: On Tues. 24 July 2018, the United Nations Security Council will discuss the latest escalation in Gaza. In a letter to the UN Security Council, Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon wrote: "After months of ongoing terror through rocket fire, violent demonstrations on the border, and the burning of thousands of acres of agricultural land, Hamas terrorists opened fire Friday on IDF soldiers near the border. An IDF soldier was killed in this unprovoked attack. Hamas is solely responsible for the escalation. The Security Council and the international community must unequivocally condemn Hamas immediately, which perpetrates violence and terror against Israeli communities, endangering their lives, and holds the entire Palestinian population of Gaza hostage." On Friday evening, 20 July 2018 Gaza terrorists fired three rockets at Israel. Two of them were intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system, and the third fell in an open field near an Israeli town. (Arutz-7)

IDF ATTACKS 60 TARGETS IN GAZA: The Israel Air Force (IAF) on Friday 20 July 2018, attacked some 60 targets belonging to the Hamas terrorist organization in Gaza and destroyed three compounds belonging to the group. "The Hamas terror organization orchestrates hostile activity along the security fence which includes arson terror, launching rockets at Israeli territory and violent riots. During these violent riots, along with other severe acts of terror that were aimed at IDF troops and security infrastructure, an IDF soldier was killed in a shooting attack Friday," said the IDF Spokesperson's Unit. "In response, over the past hours, the IDF operated against Hamas' military targets. Following eight targets that were struck immediately by IDF tanks and aircraft, IDF fighter jets targeted 60 additional military targets," it reported. (Arutz-7)

WHITE HOUSE: ISRAEL HAS A RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF: A White House official said on Friday 20 July 2018 that Israel has a right to defend itself against Hamas attacks, and called on the terrorist group

which controls Gaza to end the escalation. "Israel has a right to defend itself. Hamas' aggression only produced misery for Gaza. Among victims of this situation are many Palestinians who aren't rioting but whose futures are dimmed by Hamas radicalism. Hamas must end this disastrous cycle," the official told Israel's Channel 10 News. The comments came hours after IAF jets on Friday evening struck dozens of military targets belonging to Hamas in northern and southern Gaza, in response to a serious incident near the border in which an IDF soldier was killed by terrorist snipers. (Arutz-7)

HALEY: HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL IS UN's "GREATEST FAILURE": USA Ambassador Nikki Haley defended the Trump administration's 19 June 2018 decision to withdraw from the UN Human Rights Council, saying last week that the body is the UN's "greatest failure." "More often, the Human Rights Council has provided cover, not condemnation, for the world's most inhumane regimes. "She spoke of the council's singling out of Israel for criticism through "Agenda Item 7." "No other country - not Iran, not Syria, not North Korea - has an agenda item devoted only to it. Agenda Item 7 is not directed at anything Israel does, it is directed at the very existence of Israel." She said it is a "blazing red siren" signaling the council's "political corruption and moral bankruptcy." (VOA)

USA REPORT FINDS ONLY 20,000 PALESTINIAN REFUGEES: Sources who have seen a State Department report compiled during the Obama administration on Palestinians who became refugees during the 1948 War of Independence said last week that the report indicates that only 20,000 of the 700,000 Arab refugees are still alive and displaced from their homes. Members of Congress are demanding the State Department make the report public.(UNRWA, the UN agency which provides assistance to Palestinian refugees and their descendants, asserts that there are 5.1 million Palestinian refugees worldwide.) Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, said that access to the report was necessary for Congress to provide oversight for American taxpayers. "UNRWA lashes out against America and engages in anti-Semitic incitement. Hamas terrorists use UNRWA facilities to target Israeli civilians," Cruz told media sources. "The American people deserve to see this reported State Department assessment, so Congress and the administration can have a transparent and productive debate about America's role in the organization." Israel has begun to raise the issue in the international arena and PM Benjamin Netanyahu has said UN funds should be transferred to Palestinians through the UN refugee agency and UNRWA should be abolished. Doing so, however, would require the UN General Assembly to pass a resolution in favor of the move, which is unlikely given the international forum's anti-Israel bias. (Israel Hayom)

WHY THE CONCERN FOR UNRWA? Since UNRWA was established in 1949, the USA has given nearly \$5 billion to the agency tasked with perpetuating refugee status among descendants of Arabs who left Israel in the 1948-1949 pan-Arab invasion. UNRWA deliberately perpetuates the misery of innocent people. It indoctrinates them from the cradle to the grave to support terrorism and genocide against the Jewish state and its people. It exists as a tool of political warfare in the never-ending war to annihilate the Jewish state. UNRWA targets its services to people of Palestinian descent it calls "refugees" for political reasons; fewer than 1% of the UNRWA refugees would actually meet the Refugee Convention definition. Over the past 70 years, while the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has permanently resettled tens of millions of refugees, UNRWA has resettled no refugees. It is now responsible for the fifth generation of descendants of the Arabs who left Israel in 1948-49. (J.Post)

PUSHING THE PALESTINIAN "RIGHT OF RETURN" DOESN'T HELP PEACE: Tzipi Livni, Co-leader of Israel's opposition Zionist Union party, who also served in the past as Israel's foreign minister and chief peace negotiator with the Palestinians had this to say last week about the so called "Right of Return". "In the past few months, I've heard voices in the UK, including senior members of the Labour shadow cabinet, calling for the "right of return" of Palestinian refugees to Israel. As a supporter of peace based on the principle of two-states-for-two-peoples, the demand that Palestinian refugees "return" to Israel is not only at odds with the very rationale of a two-nation-states solution, but, if accepted, would lead to a continuation of the conflict

long after the establishment of a Palestinian state. Such a scenario should be rejected by anyone who truly seeks peace in our lifetime. Unfortunately, Palestinian refugees have been used as a political playing card for far too long since 1948. Palestinians are the only group since the end of the Second World War to have kept their refugee status and to have passed this status down to over four generations, creating a problem of millions of "refugees" that are kept as pawns in a political game instead of solving their humanitarian situation. Attempts to derail the two-nation-states solution by pushing or supporting the idea of a "right of return" will only exacerbate the conflict and are the antithesis of peace." (Guardian-UK)

PARIS: ARAB MAN BEATS ELDERLY JEW SHOUTING "ALLAHU AKBAR!" For the third time this year, French police sent to psychiatric evaluation a man who displayed violent behavior toward Jews. The latest incident occurred days ago in Paris, in which a young Arab man hit a 69-year-old Jewish man wearing a kippah, pushed him to the ground and dragged him by his hair while shouting: "Allahu akbar, long live Hitler, death to the Jews," according to the National Bureau for Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism. Police apprehended the assailant, but a police physician recommended transferring the suspect to a psychiatric institution for observation. The group said it "again deplores that a violent anti-Semite citing Islamism evades judicial treatment because he presents himself as having mental problems which should not and cannot explain or excuse his actions." Such treatment is "absurd," BNVCA said. (JTA)

PALESTINIANS CONTINUE TO SET FIRES FROM GAZA, ISRAEL RESPONDS WITH RESTRICTIONS: In response to continued arson kite and balloon terror led by Hamas, Israel announced on 16 July 2018 that it is cutting off fuel and gas supplies to Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing, but allowing medicines and food to pass through. In addition, the permitted fishing zone in Gaza has been reduced from six nautical miles to three. At the same time, the Egyptians announced that they were temporarily closing the Rafah crossing between Egypt and Gaza. Egypt has warned Hamas to significantly reduce or completely end the launching of incendiary balloons and kites into Israeli territory from Gaza within a few days. (Ynet)

'GAZANS, DEMAND THAT HAMAS CEASE ITS TERROR': The head of the Coordination and Liaison Administration in Gaza, Col. Iyad Sarhan, addressed the residents of the Gaza Strip in a post published on the Arabic page of the Coordination Unit for Government Activities in the Territories. In a video filmed at the Kerem Shalom crossing, Sarhan stressed Hamas' responsibility for harming trade in the Gaza Strip. "We ask every merchant and every citizen who is interested in calm and wants to see the goods enter Gaza, to turn to the Hamas terrorist organization and demand that they stop their firebombs and incendiary balloons. The heavy price you are paying is the result of the balloon terrorism and incendiary kites. We consider this to be terrorism in the full sense of the word and therefore the response will be more difficult," he added. "As long as terror continues with the launching of the balloons, the IDF will not sit idly by, will not be silent about the situation, and will respond strongly to this and other terrorist acts that are burning the southern region." (Arutz-7)

FLAMING BALLOON FROM GAZA LANDS IN PRESCHOOL NEAR CHILDREN AT PLAY: A balloon from Gaza carrying flaming materials landed in the yard of a preschool in an Israeli community near the border on 17 July 2018 as children played outside. A teacher managed to get the children inside and there were no injuries. "We went out to the yard with the kids in the afternoon to play," said teacher Batsheva Baruchi "After five minutes something burning and smoking fell on us from the sky. I immediately understood it was an incendiary balloon." Baruchi said she and other workers at the school herded the children into a safe room. "We were saved," she said. "What if it had fallen next to one of the children?" Earlier in the day, a incendiary device attached to a balloon landed on the grounds of an elementary school in the Eshkol Regional Council. The school was closed for summer vacation, so no children were nearby when the balloon landed. Recent months have seen daily arson attacks from Gaza with incendiary kites and balloons that have burned thousands of acres of Israeli forests, farmland and brush. Some 2,500 acres of nature reserves and national parks have been destroyed. (Times of Israel)

HAMAS PLANS TO ATTACK ISRAEL WITH 'EXPLODING DRONES': Hamas has been diverting resources intended for civilian development in Gaza to enhance its military capabilities, including a growing drone program. Now, with arson-based tactics such as incendiary kites already in use, Israeli defense officials believe Hamas wants to deploy exploding drones to extend its reach further into the country, reports the Investigative Project on Terrorism. Israel held an emergency cabinet session on 15 July 2018 after terrorists launched an estimated 200 missiles at Israeli communities on the border. Israel's military responded by hitting dozens of Hamas targets. During the cabinet meeting, Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman warned Israel has "no intention of tolerating this – not rockets, not kites, not drones – nothing." Hamas already has been affixing timers to incendiary aerial devices to delay their detonation and maximize damage. Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan warned that "we are seeing an obvious trend" and that Hamas operatives "are constantly increasing their kites' range and they are using other airborne devices" which "may even reach Judea and Samaria." (WND)

TRUMP, PUTIN AGREE TO WORK TOGETHER ON SYRIA, PRESERVE ISRAEL'S SECURITY: President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed at a meeting in Helsinki on Mon. 16 July 2018 to work together on solving the Syrian crisis - with both focusing on the need to guarantee Israel's security. Putin said, "The situation on the Golan Heights must be brought into full compliance with the 1974 disengagement agreement. This would return calm to the Golan, restore the cease-fire, and safely guarantee the security of the State of Israel". Trump said, "I made clear we will not allow Iran to benefit from our successful campaign against ISIS." Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser, former head of analysis in Israel's military intelligence, said Assad should respect the 1974 separation agreements, and it is important that Putin and Trump both expect him to do it, but Israel wants Iran not to be allowed to stay in all of Syria, not just the Golan Heights." (Wall St. Journal)

CONGRESS WANTS RECOGNITION OF ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY OVER GOLAN HEIGHTS: Congress is renewing efforts to press the Trump administration into recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights on Israel's northern border with Syria. The House's National Security Subcommittee held a hearing on 17 July 2018 to examine how recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the territory could bolster the USA's national security efforts to stem the flow of terrorists. Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.) said: "USA recognition of the Golan Heights is overdue. As we've seen with the successful relocation of our American embassy to Jerusalem, when the USA leads with purpose and conviction, good things happen." (Washington Free Beacon) *Israel captured the Golan Heights in the 1967 Six-Day War, after years during which the Syrian armed forces positioned there bombarded Israel's farms and towns, situated roughly 1,700 feet below, with artillery fire. The Syrians also sought to divert the headwaters of the Jordan River that flowed through the Golan Heights. While Syrian ground forces have been severely degraded in the recent civil war, the eventual recovery of the Syrian army must be anticipated. Massive Russian arms transfers to the Syrian armed forces will likely provide the basis for the renewal of Syrian military power. Pray that Congressional efforts will result in the USA officially recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights on its northern borders.*

LINDA SARSOUR AND THE REJECTION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.: On a recent MSNBC news discussion show, left-wing anti-Zionist activist Linda Sarsour claimed: Dr. Martin Luther King warned us about people like Chuck Schumer. He said it wasn't the Ku Klux Klan and white citizen counselors who were the obstacles towards justice. It was people calling for "civility" and people that were telling us when to protest and at what time and how to protest. In response, Michael Lumish, a PhD in American history from the Pennsylvania State University, said that he found it fascinating that "progressives" like Linda Sarsour have the chutzpah to evoke Martin Luther King, Jr., when the very last thing that King stood for was Sarsour's brand of ideological racism. Lumish pointed out that the primary admonition of Dr. King was to judge people according to their individual character, rather than immutable characteristics like ethnicity. This was the

fundamental message of his “I Have a Dream” speech on the National Mall on August 28, 1963. How someone who represents the American left could not understand this requires explanation.

Anti-racism was the essential message of the civil rights movement in the United States following World War II. Yet Sarsour insists, “If you’re in a movement and you’re not following a woman of color, you’re in the wrong movement.” This notion contradicts the teachings of King and of the entire movement for social justice — from abolitionism to Abbie Hoffman — because it is racist on its face. What Sarsour is saying, in no uncertain terms, is that the quality of one’s character is directly determined by one’s ethnicity and gender. This is turning the ideals of the civil rights movement inside out and backwards. (Algemeiner)

ISRAEL’S ELBIT UNVEILS CIVILIAN UAV THAT CAN FLY ALONGSIDE COMMERCIAL JETS: The Israeli Elbit defense contractor days ago unveiled a new civilian version of its Hermes 900 drone that can be flown alongside manned airplanes. The manufacturer, Elbit Systems Ltd., said the model was created in light of requests by countries around the world for drones that can help thwart domestic terror attacks, like those caused by the ISIS terrorist group in recent years. “This change led to an increase in demand for advanced, matured UAV systems with the ability to be integrated safely into civilian airspace, which can operate in that area with manned civilian airplanes, and can provide the necessary intelligence capabilities to carry out complicated internal security and border security missions.” Most currently available UAVs lack the necessary sensors to operate in these areas without interfering with other aircraft. As a result, many countries have laws forbidding such drones from flying in civilian airspaces. For now, the StarLiner system will be marketed to Europe. (Times of Israel)



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