

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update August 2, 2018 ***(21st of Av, 5778)***



For the Yachad Report Newsletter For August 2018

RUSSIA: WE CAN'T FORCE IRAN OUT OF SYRIA: Russia cannot compel Iranian forces to quit Syria, Moscow's ambassador to Tel Aviv said on Mon. 30 July 2018, rebuffing Israel's long-standing demand that it should work to ensure their total withdrawal from the country. With Assad now in almost complete control of southwestern areas abutting the Israeli-occupied sector of the Golan Heights, Viktorov told Israel's Channel 10 television that only Syrian army troops should be deployed there. Last week an Israeli official said Russia had offered to keep Iranian forces at least 60 miles from the Golan Heights ceasefire line. The offer came up during a meeting between Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, but Israel rejected it as insufficient. "They are playing a very, very important role in our common and joint effort to eliminate terrorists in Syria. That is why, for this period of time, we see as non-realistic any demands to expel any foreign troops from the entirety of the Syrian Arab Republic," he said. "We can talk with our Iranian partners very frankly and openly, trying to persuade them to do or not to do something," he said. But asked whether Russia can force Iran out, he answered: "We cannot." (J.Post)

IRAN CURRENCY EXTENDS RECORD FALL AS USA SANCTIONS LOOM: Iran's currency plunged to another record low on Sunday 29 July 2018, dropping past 100,000 rials to the USA dollar as Iranians brace for 7 Aug. 2018 when the United States is due to reimpose a first lot of sanctions on their economy. In May 2018 the United States pulled out of a 2015 deal between world powers and Tehran under which international sanctions on Iran were lifted in return for curbs on its nuclear program. Washington decided to reimpose sanctions on Iran upon its withdrawal, accusing it of posing a security threat, and has told countries they must halt all imports of Iranian oil from 4 Nov. 2018 or face USA financial measures. The rial has lost about half of its value since last April because of a weak economy, financial difficulties at local banks and heavy demand for dollars among Iranians who fear the effects of sanctions. On 7 Aug. the United States will reimpose sanctions on the purchase or acquisition of USA dollars by the Iranian government, Iran's trade in gold and precious metals, and on the direct and indirect sale, supply and transfer to or from Iran of graphite, raw or semi-finished metals, coal and industrial-related software. Sanctions also will be reapplied to the importation into the United States of carpets and foodstuffs made in Iran. Iran's oil exports could fall by as much as two-thirds by the end of the year because of the new USA sanctions. (J.Post)

AMBASSADOR FRIEDMAN VISITS TERROR VICTIM'S FAMILY: USA Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, on Mon. 30 July 2018 visited the family of Yotam Ovadia, who was murdered in a terrorist stabbing attack last week. Ovadia, 31, was killed when a 17-year-old terrorist infiltrated the town of Adam in Samaria and stabbed three people. Ambassador Friedman visited Ovadia's wife and two children, ages 2 and 7 months, as the family is sitting shiva, (the week long mourning period in Judaism). The ambassador had previously condemned the attack. "Shocked to hear of the brutal terror attack in Adam that left 31 year-old Yotam Ovadia dead and two others injured. My heartfelt prayers for all the families. All life is sacred, but premeditated murder cries out for condemnation. Not hearing it from Palestinian leadership," Ambassador Friedman wrote on 27 July, 2018. (INN)

ARAB TEENS ENTER ISRAEL WITH MACHINE GUNS: Two Arab teens from the Judea and Samaria entered Israel carrying home-made machine guns. The teens, from Nablus (Shechem), were found by a Border Police foot patrol in the Seam Zone, between the Green Line and Israel's security barrier, outside the community of Oranit near central Israel. The teens, ages 17 and 18, carried the Carlo-style submachine guns and cartridges in a colorful school backpack. They were taken for questioning. The infiltration came two days after a 17-year-old Arab climbed over the fence of the town of Adam north of Jerusalem and stabbed three people, killing a 31-year-old father of two young children. (Arutz-7)

ERODOGAN CONGRATULATES 'BRAVE' PA TEEN WHO SLAPPED SOLDIERS: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday, 29 July 2018 congratulated Palestinian Arab teen Ahed Tamimi in a phone call hours after her release from an Israeli prison. Tamimi, 17, who was filmed slapping an Israeli soldier during a protest of leftists and Palestinian Arabs in her town of Nabi Saleh, was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment and fined 5,000 shekels as part of a plea bargain. Erdogan lauded her "bravery and determination to fight". After her release, Tamimi went to Ramallah, where she met with Palestinian Authority (PA) chairman Mahmoud Abbas. The PA chairman said during the meeting that "the Palestinian young woman Ahed Tamimi is an example of the Palestinian struggle for freedom and independence and for the establishment of our independent Palestinian state." In a press conference in Ramallah, Tamimi said, "We will continue the resistance to achieve the freedom of the Palestinian people. We must boycott and isolate the [so-called Israeli] occupation and put it on trial." (Arutz-)

HAMAS CLAIMS GAZA PROTESTS ARE 'PEACEFUL,' THEN CALLS FOR KILLING EVERY JEW: One of the top Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip last week again claimed that ongoing demonstrations along the coastal enclave's border with Israel are "peaceful" in nature. With his very next breath, he encouraged local Muslims to slaughter every Jew they can get their hands on. Speaking a funeral in Gaza City, Fathi Hamad hailed the "success" of what he called "peaceful" protests at the Gaza security fence that have been going on since the end of March 2018. "We are making history with our peacefulness and our peaceful movement," Hamas insisted. Contrary to Hamad's remarks, those protests have been marked by routine violence, including the flying of thousands of "fire kites" into southern Israel, resulting in the destruction of vast swaths of agricultural fields and nature reserves. Unable to any longer resist the urge to incite at least a little violence, and exposing the true nature of the Gaza riots, Hamad blurted out: "O Muslims, wherever you find a Zionist Jew, you must kill him because that is an expression of your solidarity with the al-Aqsa Mosque and an expression of your solidarity with your Jerusalem, your Palestine and your people." (Israel Today)

SWASTIKA, IRON CROSSES GRAFFITIED AT INDIANA SYNAGOGUE: PENCE RESPONDS: A Jewish congregation in Carmel, Indiana, said on Sunday 29 July 2018 that a building on their property was vandalized with a giant swastika and Iron Crosses in a Friday overnight attack. The Iron Cross was a German military medal which has been adopted as a symbol by neo-Nazis and white supremacists. USA Vice President Mike Pence, later Sunday condemned the anti-Semitic vandalism against the synagogue in suburban Indianapolis. Writing on his Twitter account, he said, "Sickened and appalled by the cowardly act of

vandalism at Congregation Shaarey Tefilla; a beautiful synagogue in Carmel, Indiana where I have many good friends. Those responsible must be held accountable. These vile acts of anti-Semitism must end," wrote Pence, who previously served as Governor of Indiana. Pence noted additionally the rise in religious intolerance in Europe. "Just 70 years after the Holocaust, attacks on Jews, even on aging Holocaust survivors, are growing at an alarming rate," he said. He cited a record high last year in attacks on British Jews, and warnings of Jewish leaders in France and Germany not to wear kippahs." (J.Post/Arutz-7)

OVER 250 COMPLAINTS OF ANTI-SEMITISM TURNED OVER TO LABOUR PARTY: The Jewish Labour Movement turned over the complaints to the party, many of them appearing on social media and related to Margaret Hodge. Hodge, a Labour lawmaker, confronted party leader Jeremy Corbyn after the decision last month to adopt a softened definition of anti-Semitism, calling him an "anti-Semite and a racist" and urging him to quit the party. The party has warned Hodge that she will be disciplined. A second lawmaker, Ian Austin, a supporter of Labour Friends of Israel whose adoptive father was a Czech Jewish refugee from the Nazis, also faces party discipline after saying in a radio interview that Corbyn has been "supporting and defending all kinds of extremists and in some cases, frankly, anti-Semites." He called the Labour Party "a sewer". Sophie Goodyear, head of complaints at the Labour Party, wrote to the Jewish Labour Movement, saying, "We have now processed all 252 names and identified those who are members of the party. These individuals are now being dealt with through the next step of our procedure for complaints of anti-Semitism." Labour under Corbyn, a hard-left politician who has called Hezbollah and Hamas terrorist groups his "friends" and who is fighting accusations of harboring anti-Semitic sentiments, has come under intense scrutiny in the media over anti-Semitic rhetoric by party members. In 2016, an interparliamentary committee accused Labour of creating a "safe space for those with vile attitudes towards Jewish people." (Arutz-7)

TWO PALESTINIANS KILLED AS 7,000 RIOT ALONG GAZA BORDER: A Palestinian man was shot dead by IDF fire and a Palestinian teenager was shot dead by a sniper during violent demonstrations along the Gaza border fence on Friday 27 July 2018. According to the IDF Spokesperson's Unit, some 7,000 Palestinians took part in the violent riots in several locations along the Gaza border, throwing stones and explosive devices towards IDF troops. The demonstrators also burnt tires and hurled a grenade at troops. The military stated that a number of suspects were identified as approaching the security fence and sabotaged it before they returned to the Gaza Strip. Troops responded with crowd dispersal measures as well as live fire in accordance with IDF rules of engagement.

Gazans have held weekly demonstrations along the border fence since 30 March 2018 as part of what organizers have called the "Great March of Return." On 25 July 2018 an IDF officer was moderately wounded after being shot by a sniper in an ambush after troops arrived to disperse a violent demonstration by 20 Palestinian youth close to the border fence. The officer, who remains in the hospital recovering from his wounds, was shot just days after Staff Sgt. Aviv Levi was killed by sniper fire some 400 meters away. Described as the most serious incident along the border fence since Operation Protective Edge in 2014, Levi was the first to be killed by a Palestinian in the Gaza Strip in four years. In response the IDF carried out massive retaliatory strikes against Hamas targets in the coastal enclave. (J.Post)

JERUSALEM TERRORIST VICTIM, FATHER OF TWO, LAID TO REST: The funeral of Yotam Ovadia, 31, took place on Friday 27 July 2018 in Jerusalem. Ovadia was brutally murdered the previous evening when a 17-year-old terrorist jumped a security fence in the Jerusalem-area town of Adam and stabbed him to death. The terrorist, identified as Tarak Da'ar Yousef, also stabbed two other Jews. One is in moderate condition and the other was released from the hospital on Thursday night. Ovadia is survived by his wife Tal and two children: Two-year-old Harel and 7-month-old Itai. On Thurs. night, 26 July 2018 Ovadia was on his way to his parents' home, where he was to pick up ingredients for a special dinner he planned to make to surprise his wife. On the way, he was stabbed and murdered by the terrorist. Ovadia's father-in-law Yehuda

Ederly said, "My heart breaks to hear your little son calling, 'Abba, Abba' (Daddy, Daddy). Thank you for being what you were for your beloved children and your beloved wife Tal. We are praying for Heavenly mercy to help her through this difficult period. We will hold you in our hearts forever." Those attending Ovadia's funeral included Tourism Minister Yariv Levin, Deputy Defense Minister Rabbi Eli Ben Dahan, MK Moti Yogeve, and Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat. In the hours after the attack, the post was being widely shared and praised by Palestinian users of the social network (Arutz-7)

FOUR ISRAELI POLICE OFFICERS INJURED IN TEMPLE MOUNT UNREST: Four Israeli police officers were injured and 24 Arab rioters were arrested in violent clashes on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem on Friday 27 July 2018. A police spokesman described the scene: "With the end of [Muslim] prayers on the Temple Mount, in an unclear and unexplained move, stones and fireworks were thrown at police forces. Police forces entered and began to clear the Mount." According to Israel's Channel Two, a group of around 100 rioters blockaded themselves inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Mount. In an unusual move, nearly 200 police and security officers were ordered to enter and clear the mosque. Four police officers were injured in the process and 24 rioters were arrested. Further arrests were expected. The Temple Mount is considered to be the holiest site in Judaism, and is also revered by Muslims. (Algemeiner)

BRITISH JEWISH NEWSPAPERS WARN AGAINST CORBYN GOVERNMENT: Britain's three Jewish newspapers have united in publishing a front-page editorial warning of the "existential" threat to British Jewry that a government led by Jeremy Corbyn would pose. "We do so because our community has seen its values and integrity eroded by Corbynite contempt for Jews and Israel," the editorials said, referring to Corbyn's Labour Party. "The stain and shame of anti-Semitism has coursed through Her Majesty's Opposition since Jeremy Corbyn became leader in 2015," it added. The three newspapers are The Jewish Chronicle, long the community's flagship newspaper; the Jewish News, a relative newcomer; and the Jewish Telegraph, which has editions in many of Britain's northern cities. The editorials outlined a series of scandals and controversies that have beset Labour relating to anti-Semitism, culminating in a policy on anti-Semitism that omits Israel-related definitions that have become standard elsewhere. "Under its adapted guidelines, a Labour Party member is free to claim Israel's existence is a racist endeavor and compare Israeli policies to those of Nazi Germany. There is a clear and present danger that a man with a default blindness to the Jewish community's fears, a man who has a problem seeing that hateful rhetoric aimed at Israel can easily step into anti-Semitism, could be our next prime minister," they said. The Labour Party continues to deal with allegations of anti-Semitism. Over recent years, dozens of Labour members have been suspended over their anti-Semitic statements. (JTA)

POLL: HUGE GAPS BETWEEN REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS OVER ISRAEL: The USA public views Israel as the third most important partner for USA foreign policy, though there are huge differences between Republicans and Democrats, a recent Pew poll found. As part of the survey, participants were asked which country was "the first- or second- most important partner for American foreign policy." Among all Americans, Great Britain led the list followed by China, with Germany and Israel tied for third place. Rounding out the list of eight is Canada, France, Russia and Japan. But there was a huge partisan divide. The Republicans placed Israel second on the list, before China and after Great Britain, while for Democrats Israel was not even on a list of the eight most important partners for the USA. This survey continues a trend of polls showing a stark divide in attitudes among Democrats and Republicans toward Israel. (J.Post)

3.7 EARTHQUAKE HITS SEA OF GALILEE AND SURROUNDING AREA: An earthquake measuring 3.7 on the Richter scale was felt in the area of the Sea of Galilee on Friday morning, 27 July 2018. Dozens of tremors have been felt around northern Israel in recent weeks. Experts in the field believe that the occurrence of a strong earthquake is almost certain and that its impact on various regions of the country will be enormous. The State Comptroller's Office stated that according to information received by the government, the situation it needs to prepare for could result in an estimated 7,000 people killed, another 8,600 seriously injured, 37,000

lightly injured, 9,500 trapped in rubble and 170,000 left homeless. The office conducted an audit between July 2017 and February 2018 of the relevant ministries' and authorities' readiness in the face of earthquakes, focusing on a major one. (J.Post)

ISRAELI STARTUP USES ARMY NIGHT-VISION TECHNOLOGY TO HELP PREVENT CAR ACCIDENTS: Driving at night is four times more dangerous than driving during the day; 50% of deaths in road accidents occur at night. Israeli startup BrightWay Vision is using night-vision technology initially developed for the army to extend the vision range of drivers in all weather and lighting conditions. The system includes a camera with a chip that is placed on the windshield, behind the rear-view mirror, while at the front of the car an infra-red wave that constantly scans the surroundings interacts with the camera. While the average range of headlight vision is 50-120 meters, a screen within the car shows the driver images 250 meters ahead that the human eye otherwise would not be able to see, and automatically flags potential dangers. The firm is in talks with the German car manufacturer for future cooperation. BrightWay has also signed a contract with a Chinese firm to supply it with 10,000 units in 2019 for trucks. (Times of Israel)

ISRAELI ORTHOPEDICS ROBOTICS COMPANY MAKES COMPLICATED ADJUSTMENTS AUTOMATICALLY: Orthopedics robotics company OrthoSpin announced it has raised \$3 million for its smart, robotic external fixation system for orthopedic treatment, led by Johnson & Johnson Innovation. Effective treatment currently requires patients to manually adjust fixation devices on a daily basis. Adjustment errors often result in poor clinical outcomes. The OrthoSpin system makes pre-programmed adjustments automatically and continuously - without the need for patient involvement. Using smaller incremental adjustments, the system has the potential to change the outcomes of treatments such as bone lengthening, setting complex fractures, and correcting deformities. (Globes)

ANN (AMERICAN NEWS NETWORK): Vision for Israel - in addition to our regular Jerusalem News Reports, (JNN) - is now providing you with twice monthly news updates on what we see as vital issues and developing trends in the USA needing intercession and change. Please share these reports with your prayer groups, churches and make your voice heard on social media. You can make a difference!

JIMMY CARTER BELIEVES JESUS WOULD APPROVE OF GAY MARRIAGE, SOME ABORTIONS: In a media interview on 9 July, 2018 Jimmy Carter, the 39th president, a "born again Christian," spoke about how his faith has shaped his life and career. "I never have run across any really serious conflicts between my political obligations and my religious faith," he said. Asked about whether he approved of gay marriage, Mr. Carter responded, "That's no problem with me. I believe that Jesus would approve of gay marriage. I think He would encourage any love affair if it was honest and sincere and was not damaging to anyone else, and I don't see that gay marriage damages anyone else." Turning to the issue of abortion, Carter said he's had a spiritual struggle trying to decide whether Jesus would approve. "I have a hard time believing that Jesus would approve abortions unless it was because of rape or incest or if the mother's life was in danger." (Washington Times)

FRANKLIN GRAHAM URGES PASTORS, CHRISTIANS TO BECOME POLITICAL ACTIVISTS: "I'm encouraging pastors to become political activists," the president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association said on the Todd Starnes Radio Show. "Get out there and vote and be a spokesperson for God's standards and moral issues that we face every day politically. I'm not working with the Republican Party or the Democrat Party. We are staying out of the politics part of it. But I do want Christians to vote." That message has drawn concern from the Mainstream Media and the Fake News crowd. Graham said he is not ashamed of his message - a call to spiritual arms for believers. "California is sinking. People are leaving this state. The tax base is eroding. They are turning their once beautiful cities into these sanctuary cities which are just a little picture of hell," he said. "There's no doubt that Conservatives and Christians have suffered under the oppressive leadership of California Democrats. I want the churches to realize they don't have to take this,"

Graham said. “The churches can be the voice. The only way we are going to get God’s voice in politics is if God’s people are willing to take a stand and let their voices be heard. So vote and run for office. We need Christian legislators, we need Christian mayors, we need Christians on the city council,” he said, “Christians who are willing to take a stand for biblical truth.” (Todd Starns)

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY CANDIDATE ACCUSES ISRAEL OF ‘GENOCIDE’: A Democratic candidate for a seat in the California state assembly blames Israel for committing genocide against the Palestinians and has offered her support for anti-Semitic Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. Maria Estrada, a candidate for California’s District 63 representing the southeast suburbs of Los Angeles, garnered the second most votes, some 28%, in a top-two primary on 5 June 2018 for the Nov. 2018 election. In an op-ed published in the Los Angeles Jewish Journal, Rabbi Abraham Cooper and Dr. Harold Brackman of the Simon Wiesenthal Center noted that Estrada posted last year on Facebook: “Religious fanaticism is used to justify apartheid and crimes against Palestinians and no one should be okay with it. On Tues. 10 July 2018 she posted a screenshot of a dictionary definition of the term genocide, and wrote: “Because some people are unsure of the meaning of the term genocide because the number of people being murdered isn’t enough for them.” She added: “The argument from Zionists is that the number of Palestinians has grown. Apparently they aren’t killing enough Palestinians for them to consider it a genocide.” The op-ed also noted that Estrada tweeted that “I, for one, enjoy listening to Farrakhan’s sermons.”

In a 6 July 2018 statement, the Progressive Zionists of the California Democratic Party said it is “concerned” about Estrada’s “public support of notorious homophobe and anti-Semite Louis Farrakhan and her repeated and extreme anti-Semitism in the guise of ‘criticism of Israel.’” The statement noted other anti-Semitic Facebook posts including one in which she posted a cartoon replacing the Star of David on the Israeli flag with a swastika. “We must conclude that Maria Estrada’s repeated expressions of anti-Semitism disqualify her from seeking public office. We call on Maria Estrada to resign from this race, apologize for her blatant anti-Semitism, and take the necessary time to consider her harmful and hateful words,” the group said. Regarding her social media posts Estrada said: “To be clear, I am anti-Zionism, not anti-Semitic. Listening to Farrakhan doesn’t equate to being anti-Semitic. (J.Post)

EARTHQUAKE SWARM OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA AND OREGON: At least 11 earthquakes that were as large as M5.6 shook the seafloor 125 miles from Crescent City in California on 24 July 2018. The largest of these were felt along the coast. It has definitely gotten people’s attention. Some parts of North America are suddenly seeing big jumps in earthquakes. In mid- May 2018 dozens of quakes were reported in Southern California. Six of them were larger than a magnitude 3, according to the USA Geological Survey. The largest were felt in a scattering of locations in Imperial, San Diego and Riverside counties. (K5News)

ARSON ARREST MADE IN FAST-MOVING CALIFORNIA FIRE: In the latest incident of California fires, a man was taken into custody on 26 July 2018, on suspicion of setting off the blaze at Idyllwild in the San Bernardino National Forest. Firefighters continue to battle the fire that started Wed. 25 July 2018 in Riverside County. As of late Thursday, only 5% of the fire had been contained. The Cranston Fire had destroyed at least five homes and forced some 3,200 people to evacuate. The fire spread very rapidly, expanding to 4,700 acres in a few hours. Nearly 700 personnel are fighting to gain control of the fire. All of Idyllwild, a quaint town surrounded by pine trees in the San Jacinto Mountains, has been evacuated. Firefighters are battling other large blazes in the state. The Ferguson Fire in central California, which has grown to more than 43,200 acres, has forced parts of the nearby Yosemite National Park to close temporarily. In Northern California's Shasta County, the Carr Fire has burned 20,000 acres and is only 10% contained. (NPR)

UN WARNS IT IS ‘RUNNING OUT OF CASH’ IN URGENT APPEAL TO MEMBERS: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said days ago that the UN is running out of money and is urging members to pay up amid a looming financial crisis for the international body. Guterres has warned member states of a “troubling financial situation facing the United Nations,” which he says is caused by late payments to the UN by member states. “Our cash flow has never been this low so early in the calendar year, and the broader trend is also concerning; we are running out of cash sooner and staying in the red longer,” he says. USA Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, has pushed for reform of the world body in a bid to cut costs. “The inefficiency and overspending of the United Nations are well known. We will no longer let the generosity of the American people be taken advantage of or remain unchecked,” she said when the 2018-2019 core budget was agreed upon. Guterres said the UN would take measures to reduce expenses with a focus on non-staff costs following American pressure to cut costs and increase efficiency. (Fox)

TRUMP: TWITTER SHOULD DELETE NY TIMES, WASHINGTON POST IN MIDST OF CRACKDOWN ON FAKE NEWS: President Trump wonders if, in the midst of Twitter cracking down on fake users, the social media giant will also get rid of the NY Times and Washington Post’s accounts. “Twitter is getting rid of fake accounts at a record pace,” Trump tweeted in July, 2018. “Will that include the failing New York Times, and propaganda machine for Amazon, the Washington Post, which constantly quote anonymous sources that, in my opinion, don’t exist”? Earlier this year, Twitter admitted that more than 50,000 Russia-linked accounts used its service to post automated material about the 2016 USA election – a far greater number than previously disclosed. Announcing the discovery on its website the company said the posts had reached at least 677,775 Americans. Twitter has been more vigilant about fake accounts recently after receiving pressure from the public and lawmakers. Meanwhile Trump constantly refers to both the Times and the Post as “fake news” and believes they are pushing fake information. (Washington Examiner)

WORSE THAN AIDS: OPIOID EPIDEMIC IS PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS CDC FEARS MOST: Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has dubbed the over prescription and abuse of painkillers the “public health crisis of our time”. He said during July 2018 that it will take a massive effort to combat the problem. “I would say the opioids-fueled epidemic is clearly already more deadly than the AIDS epidemic ever was”. Dr. Redfield added that his agency is working with states and pharmacies to track the opioid epidemic in real time and collect good data on overdose deaths more quickly. He is aiming to release official 2017 figures this fall. The public response to the crisis has been relying on data from 2016, when 42,000 Americans were killed from opioids alone. It is unclear what the new figures will reveal, but many researchers believe opioid-related deaths will eclipse the 48,000 lives that HIV/AIDS claimed in 1995, its most deadly year. Either way, Dr. Redfield said, drug addiction already is exacting a huge annual toll.”(Washington Times)

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