

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 20, 2018 (11th of Tishrei, 5779)



[For the Yachad Report Newsletter For September 2018](#)

TRUMP FREEZES PA'S BANK ACCOUNTS: The United States is intensifying its pressure on the Palestinian Authority (PA). The Al-Jazeera network reported on Sunday 16 Sept. 2018 that the USA administration has decided to immediately close all bank accounts linked to the PA or the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in banks across the United States. The State Department hinted last week after the closure of the PLO's mission in Washington that there would be further steps against the Palestinian Arabs. Earlier on Sunday, the Lebanon-based Al-Mayadeen television reported that the USA ordered the PLO envoy to the USA, Husam Zomlot, out of the country. According to the report, the visas for Zomlot and his family were cancelled, their USA bank accounts were closed, and he was ordered to leave. Zomlot and his family have reportedly left the country, and are en route to Ramallah.

JEWISH VICTIM DIES AFTER TERRORIST STABBING ATTACK: A man murdered in a stabbing attack near the shopping center at the Gush Etzion Junction was identified as Ari Fuld of Efrat, a father of four and a known pro-Israel activist. MDA medics administered first aid and evacuated the man to Shaare Tzedek hospital in Jerusalem. According to the hospital, the victim was connected to a respirator, was sedated and in critical condition. Later, however, his death was confirmed. The terrorist, a 17-year-old from the village of Yatta near Hevron, was shot and moderately wounded. Gush Etzion regional council head Shlomo Ne'eman said following the attack: "I view with severity the serious assault. The purpose of these attackers is one; to disrupt our way of life. Our Arab neighbors have to deal with one single question: Either you live with us here and behave like people, or you choose an aggressive way and pay the full price."

ISRAEL'S MEMBERS OF KNESSET RESPOND TO TERROR ATTACK: MK Sharren Haskel released a statement in response to the terror attack in Gush Etzion, saying: "The unbearable ease with which a 17-year-old boy goes on a murderous rampage is the direct result of a well-oiled, well-equipped incitement machine in the Palestinian Authority, from the education system to social networks to Abu Mazen, among other things, advocating a policy of financing terrorists and their families. They shouldn't be surprised the USA is refusing to finance a terrorist exporter. A job well done by the civilian who neutralized the terrorist and prevented him from killing other civilians. My heart is with the family of the murdered man." Speaker of

the Knesset Yuli Edelstein said, "All of Israel feels the pain of Ari's murder this morning in Gush Etzion. Ari showed a huge amount of courage, he ran after the terrorist but to our misfortune he was not able to beat the terrorist. I'd like to communicate my deepest sympathies to his family." Minister of Education Naftali Bennett lamented the passing of Ari Fuld saying: "Ari Fuld is a hero, who in his death saved life." Likewise, Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman expressed his sorrow over the death of Fuld saying: "my heart is with Gush Etzion, and my condolences to the victim's family."

TENS OF HUNDREDS OF PALESTINIANS RIOT IN FRIDAY AND SATURDAY'S PROTESTS IN GAZA: About 500 Palestinians demonstrators, who massed at several points near the Gaza border fence on Sat.15 Sept. 2018 burned tires, and threw stones and explosive devices toward IDF forces. As part of the weekly "March of Return" demonstrations, Palestinian terrorists tossed three grenades at the Karni crossing, and threw a pipe bomb in the Rafah area, targeting IDF troops. The Israeli troops responded with crowd dispersal measures, and no casualties were reported among the soldiers. Saturday's clashes are the latest incidents in a series of violent attacks along the Gaza border reported in the past few days. On Friday, 14 Sep. 2018, Gaza's Health Ministry claimed that three Palestinians were killed and at least 30 had been wounded by IDF fire in the northern Gaza Strip during weekly riots. The IDF said in response that it used necessary force in order to prevent border breaches by some 13,000 Palestinians who gathered at several points near the fence, some of them hurling rocks and fire bombs at troops, under the cover of smoke from burning tires.

Also on Friday, a number of balloons were discovered in a children's playground in Kiryat Gat which were affixed with a combustible thread that did not burn. It was the second incident Friday involving incendiary balloons, with several balloons connected to an explosive device being found in Eshkol Regional Council near the Gaza Strip. In addition, on the previous day, a pipe bomb was thrown at IDF troops near the Gaza border, prompting the force to respond with live fire targeting three Palestinians seen crawling along the security fence. In all three cases there were no casualties and no damage was done. The IDF Spokesperson's Unit said " Hamas continues to try and harm the defensive infrastructure of the security forces along the border fence while using civilians as shields and as cover for committing acts of terror."

BELGIUM CUTS TIES WITH PA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM: Belgium has broken its relations with the Palestinian Authority (PA) bureau in charge of education over its honoring of terrorists and will no longer fund the construction of its schools, according to a government spokesperson. The Belgian Education Ministry announced the move — the first of its kind by any European country — on Friday 14 Sept. 2018.

HEZBOLLAH COMMANDER: 'PREPARING SURPRISES FOR ENEMY': A Lebanon Hezbollah military camp commander expressed confidence with regard to Israel during press coverage of the camp he commands. A pro-Hezbollah Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar correspondent visited the camp and heard the commander's words, which were translated by MEMRI Institute investigators. He stated his organization was prepared for a new war with Israel and that they had "many surprises for the enemy". In the recent interview, the commander told the reporter that Hezbollah was well aware of IDF force deployment and war preparations, stating the possibility that in the next war, the organization's operatives will succeed in infiltrating into Israel and Judea & Samaria. He said Hezbollah had accumulated extensive knowledge and experience fighting in Syria, which was "one big military training camp" for the organization. He said the organization had experienced combat in various geographic conditions including fighting in built-up areas, and had gained experience with all kinds of weapons. "Soon the Israelis will discover for themselves the extent of our knowledge, if they think of attacking Lebanon," said the senior Hezbollah figure.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNCOVER 13,000-YEAR-OLD BREWERY IN ISRAEL : Researchers have discovered the earliest evidence of alcohol production, from 13,000 years ago, in the Rakefet Cave in the Carmel, Haifa University announced last week. Researchers from Haifa and Stanford University analyzed three stone mortars from the 13,000-year-old Natufian burial cave site in Israel, concluding that these mortars

were used for brewing wheat/barley, as well as for food storage. The researchers explained that the earliest archaeological evidence for cereal-based brewing, even before the advent of agriculture, comes from the Natufians – a semi-sedentary, foraging people, living in the Eastern Mediterranean following the last Ice Age. An examination of two mortars found microscopic remains of starch grains that underwent morphological changes that correspond to changes in starch that occur in the process of fermentation. In a third mortar, the researchers found evidence that it was used for storage and as a receptacle in which grains could be beaten and crushed, a necessary stage of fermentation. “The Natufian remains in Rakefet Cave never stop surprising us,” said Prof. Dani Nadel of the Zinman Institute of Archaeology, University of Haifa, who was also an excavator of the site. “We exposed a Natufian burial area with about 30 individuals; a wealth of small finds such as flint tools, animal bones and ground stone implements, and about 100 stone mortars and cup marks. “And now, with the production of beer, the Rakefet Cave remains provide a very vivid and colorful picture of Natufian lifeways, their technological capabilities and inventions,” he added.

ISRAEL, GREECE, And CYPRUS PLAN UNDERWATER GAS PIPELINE: PM Netanyahu last week held a trilateral meeting with Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias and Cypriot Foreign Minister Nikos Christodoulides. The three discussed, in continuation of previous meetings, the laying of a joint Israel-Cyprus-Greece East-Med gas pipeline in order to export gas to Europe. They also discussed – inter alia – regional issues, the deepening of cooperation and the initiative to establish a multi-national firefighting force. “Foreign Minister Christodoulides and Foreign Minister Kotzias, this is one of our regular meetings between Israel, Greece and Cyprus. We have many things that we cooperate on; the environment, energy, security, emergency services, tourism, many others,” said Netanyahu.

NETANYAHU: EUROPE STILL APPEASING IRANIAN TERROR: As the world marks 17 years since the 9/11 attacks in the United States, the time has come for western governments to take part in “the strong and clear effort of the Trump administration against the terrorist regime in Tehran,” said PM Benjamin Netanyahu. Speaking last week, Netanyahu took European leaders to task for “appeasing Iran,” something he said “helps the unending attack on the values and security of free societies.” He noted the irony that on the same week in June 2018 that an Iranian terror cell tried to carry out an attack against an Iranian opposition group in Paris – an attack that Israeli intelligence helped to thwart – European leaders were trying to “appease” Iran and looking for ways to soften the fallout from the USA withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear deal. Al-Qaeda, the terrorist group that carried out the 11 Sept. 2001 attacks, has “passed the torch” of extremist Sunni terrorism on to ISIS, while the extremist Shia variety of terror is being led by Iran, the premier said. “They both have the same goals: to destroy the free societies as we know them, to destroy Israel, and also to destroy the west and others. The time has come for the world to unite in a struggle against the terrorist organizations. It did so to a degree in the attack against ISIS, but has not done it against Iran – the opposite is the case,” he said.

LIKUD MINISTER: TRUMP PEELS PALESTINIAN LIE LIKE AN ONION: Israel’s Intelligence Minister Yisrael Katz welcomed USA President Donald Trump's decision to close Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) offices in Washington DC last week. "This resolve joins the decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the decision to stop funding UNRWA, which is an organization that perpetuates the refugees' pretend right of return," Katz said. "All these steps reach the roots of the conflict and tell Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas that he cannot continue his double-talk. Trump is peeling the Palestinian lie like an onion - layer by layer. Their educational system as well teaches their children that 'big Palestine' is from the Jordan River to the sea. Trump comes and says: 'If you want to sit and negotiate, do it from a realistic place - Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, and there is no right of return.' Abbas' response shows exactly what he thinks of these issues." Regarding whether he believes Trump's recent decisions will lead to another round of Arab violence, Katz said, "The security coordination between Israel and the Palestinian security forces happens first of all because it's worth it for Abbas. He's not doing it because he loves Zion, but because he understands that if Shabak (Israel’s Security Agency) isn't the one dealing with

it and leading the activities against Hamas in Judea & Samaria, he'll be the first to go, and it'll happen within a few hours.

KUSHNER DENIES AID CUTS TO PALESTINIANS DIMINISH CHANCES FOR PEACE: Senior presidential advisor Jared Kushner said in an interview that recent actions against the Palestinians had not diminished the chances of a peace accord. "There were too many false realities that were created - that people worship - that I think needed to be changed. All we're doing is dealing with things as we see them and not being scared out of doing the right thing. I think, as a result, you have a much higher chance of actually achieving a real peace." Kushner said Palestinian leaders deserved to lose aid after vilifying the USA administration. And much of the money that the USA poured into UNRWA and other Palestinian causes had been misspent. Aid should be used to further national interests and help those in need. In the case of the Palestinians, the funding had evolved into a decades-long entitlement program with no plan to make them self-reliant.

SINCE 2016: HAMAS USING 17,000 CHILDREN TO FIGHT ISRAEL: The Jerusalem Institute of Justice (JIJ) completed a request to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Hague, asking to sue Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. In the request, JIJ cites testimonies showing that Haniyeh committed two main war crimes: Firstly, he used children under the age of 15 for military purposes, using them both as child soldiers and to carry out terror attacks. Secondly, Haniyeh consistently used children as human shields and as military targets. The total number of children misused by Hamas since 2016 currently stands at 17,000. Haniyeh is also charged with widescale and consistent use of torture and illegal killing, carried out by Hamas' internal security forces in Gaza. JIJ Attorney Uri Morad, who submitted the request, said the testimonies collected have received praise from representatives of the ICC's department of information and research. "The entire process was very efficient and organized, and we felt like we had the trust of those receiving the request," he said. "I believe that this suit, which the Jerusalem Institute for Justice has submitted, will be dealt with fairly and without bias."

FORMER AMBASSADOR TO UN PROSOR WRITES SCATHING PIECE AGAINST CORBYN: Former ambassador to Britain Ron Prosor penned a scathing opinion piece last week about Jeremy Corbyn in The UK Telegraph, saying that with his hatred of Israel and willingness to do the bidding of the world's terrorists and dictators, he would be perfectly suited to serve in the UN. Noting that the Labour Party that Corbyn leads recently adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism, but only after adding the stipulation that it does not preclude "freedom of expression on Israel and the rights of Palestinians," Prosor wrote that this caveat "will enable the party to continue providing cover for anti-Semites rather than protection for Jews. If Corbyn was judged by the terms of the IHRA definition, it would be hard to justify his presence as a member of the party, let alone its leader," Prosor continued. "I can safely say that Corbyn has all the qualities needed for a successful career at the UN," said Prosor. "He faces accusations of anti-Semitism, hates Israel and is happy to do the bidding of some of the worst dictators and terrorist groups. He'd fit right in! Sadly, the Labour leader is far more representative of the UN at its worst than Britain at its best."

CZECH LEADERS ENDORSE ISRAELI EMBASSY MOVE TO JERUSALEM: Czech leaders last week endorsed moving the country's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, following a similar move by the USA administration earlier this year. In a joint statement, the Czech president, prime minister, parliament speaker and the foreign and defense ministers said the opening of a "Czech House" there in Nov. 2018 would be "the first step in the plan to move the Czech embassy to Jerusalem." Jiri Ovcacek, spokesman for the pro-Israeli President Milos Zeman, said that the Czech House would shelter government institutions including the foreign ministry's Czech Center, the trade agency CzechTrade, and tourism agency CzechTourism. "The Czech House in Jerusalem will be ceremonially opened by our President during his visit to Israel in November, 2018" he said. Zeman, 73, promoted the embassy move even before USA President

Trump moved the US embassy to Jerusalem on 14 May 2018. The Czech Embassy has been in Tel Aviv since 1949.

ISRAEL'S LINOY ASHRAM CONTINUES TO RACK UP RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS MEDALS:

Whether it's Hoop, Ball, Clubs or Ribbon, Israeli rhythmic gymnast Linoy Ashram is making a name for herself after winning 24 medals across all competitions this past year. Just this week, Ashram became the first Sabra to take home a silver medal in the World Championships held in Sofia, Bulgaria, in the Hoop discipline and her future couldn't be brighter. The 19-year old began training as a rhythmic gymnast at the age of seven and took part in her first international competition as a 12-year-old. Since then, it's been up, up and away for the unstoppable Ashram. Having won medals of all colors, shapes and sizes – from Grand Prix to World Games and European Championships – the silver medal at the World Championships is the result of Ashram's continuing upward arc thanks to her determination, desire and hard work to be the best of the best. Ashram may be in the headlines now as she continues her climb towards greatness, but her illustrious past will show that there was never a doubt that the Rishon Lezion native was a star in the making. As a junior, Ashram won bronze medals at the 2014 Junior European Championships, which propelled her to the Youth Olympic Games in China where she was the Israeli flag bearer at the closing ceremonies. That same November she won her first competitive gold medal in the all-around in Austria. After a successful year, Ashram made her senior circuit debut at the 2015 Moscow Grand Prix, where she finished an impressive fourth in the all-around.

SYRIAN CIVILIANS WISH IDF 'ALL THE BEST': After two years of operation, the IDF has shut down operations on the border with Syria on the Golan Heights aimed at assisting Syrian civilians during the ongoing Syrian civil war. While Israel has provided help to civilians throughout the seven-year civil war, for the past two years, the IDF has maintained a special command on the Syrian border for managing the large transfers of humanitarian goods to Syrians just east of the security fence. Dubbed the "Good Neighbor" Command, the center also operated a clinic, known as Mazor Ladach, in the Golan for treating wounded Syrians. Thousands of Syrian civilians received aid or medical treatment from the command over the past two years. Some 7,000 Syrian patients were treated at the Mazor Ladach clinic, while thousands of tons of food and clothing were distributed to civilians near the border, along with over 1,000,000 liters of fuel, 40 vehicles, 20 power generators, 630 tents, and other humanitarian aid. One Syrian civilian personally thanked the commander of the Good Neighbor operation. "I wish you all the best, and I thank you very much for your help and for supporting us," the man said in a voice recording. "In God's name, this deed will not be forgotten, and we will teach our children of what you have done."

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