

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update January 10, 2019 ***(4th Shvat, 5779)***



For the Yachad Report Newsletter For January 2019

ISRAEL STOPS PALESTINIAN BID FOR FULL UN MEMBERSHIP: Israel announced Sunday, 6 Jan. 2019 that it had blocked an upcoming bid by the Palestinians to gain full membership at the United Nations - saving the USA from having to veto such a push if it came before the Security Council. It was just last month that Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki said he would seek full membership this month to the world body. However, Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon started lobbying UN member states and several Security Council members in recent weeks to prevent such a push. Danon had made it clear to those with whom he spoke that the Palestinians did not meet the conditions of full UN membership, in part due to its payments to terrorists. "We exposed the hypocrisy of the Palestinians," said Danon "They continue to pay terrorists every month and to encourage violence and incitement against Israel; therefore, they are very far from meeting the definition of a 'peace loving' state. The Palestinian Authority continues to error in its attempt to establish facts on the ground through unilateral moves while it has not abandoned the path of terror." The Israeli mission said the Palestinians now understand that the chances of the proposal passing have gone, and they are shelving the plan to promote the status upgrade.

JOHN BOLTON: USA TO PROTECT KURDS FROM TURKS IN SYRIA PULLOUT: USA forces will remain in northeastern Syria until Turkey agrees not to go after the Kurds, National Security Adviser John Bolton said Sunday 6 Jan. 2019, clarifying that President Donald Trump is committed to protecting opposition allies. "That's what the president said," Bolton told reporters in Israel, ahead of a meeting this week in Turkey with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "We don't think the Turks ought to undertake military action that's not fully coordinated with and agreed to by the United States, so they don't endanger our troops, but also so that they meet the president's requirement that the Syrian opposition forces that have fought with us are not endangered." Bolton's clarification follows a backlash from USA lawmakers and other nations after

Trump's surprise announcement last month that he would quickly withdraw from Syria left the fate of the Kurds in doubt. Trump has since indicated the withdrawal would be slower than initially suggested.

USA AMBASSADOR: NO PEACE PLAN IN NEAR FUTURE: USA Ambassador to Israel David Friedman indicated that his country would not likely be releasing its Middle East peace plan in the immediate future. Speaking in Jerusalem this week, Friedman assessed that Trump's peace plan would be released within the next several months. "We want to release it in a way that gives it the best chance of getting a good reception," he said, adding that Israeli elections "are a factor, but not the only factor," alluding to the ongoing Palestinian Authority refusal to accept the plan. Friedman said the contents are "pretty much completed," but there is additional "wordsmithing and smoothing" that needs to be done. "The challenge to a peace plan is making the case for a much more sober assessment of the realities in this region," Friedman asserted. "The last time there was a meaningful agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians was 1993. A lot has happened since 1993."

ESTIMATE OF LOST JEWISH PROPERTY IN TUNISIA, LIBYA: \$50 BILLION: Israel released an official estimate of the value of Jewish property lost when Jewish communities left two Arab countries - Tunisia and Libya - on Saturday night 5 Jan. 2019. The initial amount surpassed \$50 billion, with the total estimate of property lost in the Arab world, valued at \$250 billion, expected to come soon. Israel is likely to demand compensation for Jewish property left in Arab countries as a condition to a regional peace deal. Secret valuations of Jewish property in Morocco, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Iran and Yemen have been conducted over the past year and a half, the report said.

SECRET DELEGATIONS FROM IRAQ VISIT ISRAEL: Three delegations from Iraq visited Israel in recent months, the last of which arrived in Jerusalem during Dec. 2018, Israeli news sources reported on Sunday, 6 Jan. 2019. The delegations included a total of 15 influential people from Iraq, including local religious leaders. The groups reportedly met with Israeli officials, visited the Yad Vashem Museum and met with academics and organizations related to Iraqi Jewry. The visits were made possible in part because, compared to the generally hostile Arab world, Iraq has a relatively favorable attitude toward Israel. Last month, PM Netanyahu attended a conference of Israeli ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry and told the diplomats, "When I meet with Arab leaders, they say to me, 'We have security and economic interests, and we also want to enjoy the fruits of progress, and we will not mortgage our normalization with the State of Israel to the whims of the Palestinians.'" Netanyahu added at the time, "This does not mean peace agreements yet, but it certainly means that a situation could be created in which our progress toward normalization with the Arab world takes place before peace with the Palestinians. It means that we are not conditioning our cohesion with the Arab world on peace with the Palestinians."

EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT CONFIRMS ISRAEL IS HELPING FIGHT SINAI JIHADISTS: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi confirmed in an interview on "60 Minutes" aired on Sunday 6 Jan. 2019 that his military was working with Israel against terrorists in North Sinai. Asked if cooperation with Israel was the closest ever between two enemies that once were at war, he responded, "That is correct. We have a wide range of cooperation with the Israelis." The Egyptians are battling an estimated 1,000 ISIS-affiliated terrorists on its Sinai peninsula that they have allowed the Israelis to attack by air. Although Egypt became the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, their ties have been formally cold at times, and Egypt's political elite has remained hostile to any normalization of ties with Israel. Ties have improved under Sisi, who took power in 2013 after the army ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood.

EGYPT DESTROYS 37 TUNNELS WHICH INFILTRATED FROM GAZA IN 2018: The Egyptian military destroyed 37 cross-border tunnels linking the Gaza Strip to the Sinai Peninsula over the past year. The IDF has also invested extensively in locating Gaza cross-border terrorist tunnels and destroyed 15 of them

in 2018, including one tunnel which stretched into both Israel and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula near the Kerem Shalom crossing. Israel dclaims that the tunnel was used for smuggling, asserting Hamas intended to use it to bring terrorists and weapons from Egypt into the Gaza Strip for a possible future combined attack on the Kerem Shalom crossing from the Egyptian side. The IDF also destroyed a tunnel extending into the Mediterranean which would have enabled terrorists entering a Hamas military post in the northern Gaza Strip to exit into the sea unnoticed. Israel has completed 27 km. of its underground barrier designed to prevent tunnels from crossing into Israeli territory from Gaza. The barrier will also stretch into the Mediterranean to stave off Hamas infiltration by sea.

How tragic that Hamas has used billions of dollars of foreign aid money to build terrorist attack tunnels into Israel and neighboring Egypt, to buy and use weapons against the Jewish state, and to pad their own pockets. So much could have been done to build up the suffering Gaza Strip society, to provide jobs, homes, schools, and so much more. Instead, Hamas continues to feed its men, women and children on hatred and jihad. An entire population is starving on such a diet. Pray that Hamas will be overthrown and that others with a positive eye towards rebuilding the Gaza Strip and co-operating with Israel will be put in place.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS LIVE AN AVERAGE SEVEN YEARS LONGER: Holocaust survivors live seven years longer on average than other Jewish people in Israel who did not experience the horrors of the Nazi genocide. In a new study, scientists say survivors may have been genetically more resilient to the severe hardships they endured at the hands of the Germans. This 'cruel Darwinistic selection' - combined with a heightened awareness of their own well-being - has increased their life expectancy beyond that of Israeli Jews who were not caught up in the 20th-century extermination of their people, they claim. The abominable treatment survivors experienced may have also improved their mental and physical toughness, experts say, and made them more health conscious. A combination of these factors has culminated in a life expectancy of 84.8 years of age for survivors. This is considerably higher than the average lifespan of Israeli Jews who did not live through the holocaust - which is 77.7 years on average. But the remarkable endurance of these people is made more astonishing by the fact they are also more likely to suffer with hypertension (16%), kidney disease (11%) and dementia (seven per cent). The study compared more than 38,000 Holocaust survivors born in Europe and nearly 35,000 Israelis all born between 1911 and 1945.

BRAZILIAN GOVERNOR REQUESTS SOUND OF SHOFAR AT HIS INAUGURATION: Wilson Witzel, an ardent supporter of Israel, took office last week surrounded by several members of the local Jewish community at a ceremony in Rio's Legislative Assembly. The non-Jewish governor of a Brazilian state was inaugurated with the sounds of a shofar blown by a rabbi. "One of the most touching moments during my campaign was when I heard the shofar at the Beit Lubavitch synagogue. It gave me the strength I needed to carry on," Witzel told reporters. Witzel, 50, was elected in Oct. 2018 for a four-year term. He has pledged to fight against corruption and to clean up politics, language that is aligned with President Bolsonaro, his political godfather. Last month, Witzel spent a week in Israel to learn anti-terror techniques that can be deployed against urban violence in his home state. "We have very similar situations. Our policemen will come to Israel to get familiar with the patrolling techniques in conflict areas, checkpoints and borders," he said. Witzel and his wife days ago escorted Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu during a visit to the Sugarloaf Mountain part of his five-day visit to Brazil, the first-ever by a sitting Israeli prime minister

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO: ONLY ISRAEL HAS THE RIGHT TO DECIDE ITS CAPITAL: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro declared Thur. 3 Jan. 2019 he would transfer the Brazilian embassy to Jerusalem. "Israel is a sovereign state and we must respect it. Only Israelis have the right to decide what the capital of Israel will be," Bolsonaro said. "Extremist Arab countries will object if we move the embassy to Jerusalem, others will not." Israel's PM Netanyahu later hailed Bolsonaro's announcement. Arab leaders, however, have condemned the move and have pressured Bolsonaro not to go through with it. A date has not been set for the embassy move, but Israel's PM Netanyahu, who visited Brazil for Bolsonaro's inauguration last week, said that it is only a matter of time until Brazil moves its embassy to Jerusalem.

HONDURAS AND JERUSALEM ADVANCE MUTUAL EMBASSIES: On the sidelines of last week's inauguration of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro in Brasilia, Israeli PM Netanyahu met with USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez. The three discussed advancing the opening of a Honduran embassy in Jerusalem, and the possibility of opening an Israeli embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Pompeo, Netanyahu, and Hernandez agreed to hold tripartite meetings in each of their respective capitals and "strengthen political relations", according to a statement by the USA Department of State. In Dec. 2017 Honduras was one of only nine countries, including Israel and the USA, to vote against a motion adopted by the UN General Assembly condemning USA recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

NEW CONGRESS SWORN IN WITH DEMOCRATS CONTROLLING HOUSE: The 116th Congress was sworn in on Thur. 3 Jan. 2019 with Democrats retaking control of the House of Representatives, dividing the government once again after two years of single-party rule. Nancy Pelosi reclaimed the speaker's gavel after suppressing a rebellion from freshmen congressmen, who sought a new face in Democratic leadership. Those same freshmen – including Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York – entered Congress vowing to forge a new path for liberals on Israel policy in Washington in favor of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. Tlaib, the first Palestinian-American woman ever elected to Congress, arrived for her swearing-in wearing a traditional Palestinian dress. She supports a one-state solution and does not believe in Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state. Linda Sarsour, a controversial Palestinian activist staunchly in favor of the BDS movement, was on Capitol Hill to attend Tlaib's swearing in. A world map in her new office was marked with a Post-it marking Israel as Palestine just hours before Tlaib took her oath, on a Quran.

MUSLIM CONGRESSWOMAN RASHIDA TLAIB DELIVERS PROFANITY-LACED TIRADE AFTER TAKING OFFICE: Promising to "impeach the @\$%#@", new Democratic Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib delivered a speech bashing President Trump following her swearing in. Tlaib's profanity-laced tirade came during an event held by the MoveOn progressive organization. Recalling a conversation she had with her son, who told her that "Look mama you won- bullies don't win," Tlaib said that she replied "You're right, they don't. And we're gonna go in and impeach the [expletive]". (Editors have refrained from publishing the obscenity due to the severity of the swear word.) Tlaib, who won Michigan's 13th Congressional District, is joined by Representative Ilhan Omar from Minnesota in becoming one of the first two Muslim women elected to Congress. Omar has in the past called Israel an "apartheid regime". She also sparked controversy for saying after being elected that she supported the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement targeting Israel, after saying during her campaign that it was "counteractive" and prevents dialogue.

WOMEN'S MARCH NEW ORLEANS SCRAPPED, CITING ISSUES OF ANTI-SEMITISM: The New Orleans Women's March has been canceled with its chapter citing "several issues," one being anti-Semitism within the national movement. Marches are scheduled nationwide for 19 Jan. 2019. "Many of the sister marches have asked the leaders of Women's March, Inc. to resign but they have yet to do so," the New Orleans chapter said in its announcement last week. Additionally, "the controversy is dampening efforts of sister marches to fundraise, enlist involvement and find sponsors, and attendee numbers have drastically declined this year. New Orleans is no exception." Other local marches that have been canceled include those in Chicago and Eureka, Calif.

ISRAELI DEVICE WATCHES SWIMMING POOLS TO PREVENT DROWNING ACCIDENTS: During the past year there was a tragic increase of children and adults who drowned at home in private swimming pools. The patent-pending system by Coral Drowning Detection Systems constantly "watches" and detects movement in private pools using a built-in underwater video camera, computer vision and artificial intelligence technology. When it identifies a potential drowning situation, it sounds an ear-piercing alarm and

immediately sends a smartphone alert to all household members. Company entrepreneur Eyal Golan said, "Coral Manta is not meant to replace adult supervision, but to fill the gap when you are distracted and compensate for our human flaws."

ISRAELI STARTUPS RAISED A RECORD \$6.1 BILLION IN 2018: The total figure beats last year's record of \$5.24 billion. Israel is known as a "Startup Nation," having the third-most companies on the Nasdaq. The Nasdaq is an electronic exchange where stocks are traded through an automated network of computers instead of a trading floor. It stands for National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations System and is the world's second-largest stock exchange based on market capitalization.

ABORTION WAS LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH WORLDWIDE IN 2018: More human beings died in abortions than any other cause of death in 2018, a new report indicates. A heartbreaking reminder about the prevalence of abortion, statistics compiled by Worldometers indicate that there were nearly 42 million abortions world-wide in 2018. Breitbart contrasted the abortion numbers to other causes of death, including cancer, HIV/AIDS, traffic accidents and suicide, and found that abortions far outnumbered every other cause. As of December 31, 2018, there have been some 41.9 million abortions performed in the course of the year, the report revealed. By contrast, 8.2 million people died from cancer in 2018, 5 million from smoking, and 1.7 million died of HIV/AIDS. Globally, just under a quarter of all pregnancies (23%) were ended by abortion in 2018, and for every 33 live births, ten infants were aborted. Researchers estimate about 59 million deaths world-wide in 2018, but that number does not include unborn babies' abortion deaths.

Unborn babies are not recognized as human beings even though biology indicates that they are unique, living human beings from the moment of conception and they die brutal, violent deaths in abortions. The abortion number is incomprehensible, but each of those 42 million abortions represents a living human being whose life was violently destroyed in their mother's womb. Each unborn baby already had their own unique DNA, making them distinct from their mother. That DNA indicated if the child was a boy or girl, their eye and hair color, their height, possible genetic disorders and other disabilities, and much more. In most cases, the unborn babies' hearts are beating when they are aborted, too. In America, just under 1 million babies are aborted every year. Though abortion rates have been dropping in the past decade, abortion remains the leading cause of death in the United States as well.

NIKKI HALEY SLAMS UNESCO AS USA, ISRAEL QUIT UN AGENCY: On Tues. 1 Jan. 2019, one day after the USA and Israel officially quit UNESCO over anti-Israel bias, exiting USA Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley tweeted, "UNESCO is among the most corrupt and politically biased UN agencies. The USA withdrawal from this cesspool is now official." Israel has been infuriated by UNESCO resolutions that ignore and diminish its historical connection to the Holy Land. Paris-based UNESCO, which supports various educational and cultural projects around the world, has been denounced by critics for naming ancient Jewish sites as Palestinian heritage sites. Israeli UN envoy Danny Danon said Tuesday that his country "will not be a member of an organization whose goal is to deliberately act against us, and that has become a tool manipulated by Israel's enemies. UNESCO is a body that continually rewrites history, including by erasing the Jewish connection to Jerusalem," said Danon.

TRUMP GIVES NO TIMETABLE FOR SYRIA EXIT; WANTS TO PROTECT KURDS: President Donald Trump said Wed. 2 Jan. 2019 the USA would get out of Syria slowly "over a period of time" and would protect USA-backed Kurdish fighters in the country as Washington draws down troops. Trump said he had never set a reported four-month timetable for the withdrawal of American troops. "We're getting out and we're getting out smart. I never said I'm getting out tomorrow," Trump said. "We want to protect the Kurds, but I don't want to be in Syria forever. It's sand. And it's death."

KHAMENEI: PALESTINIANS WILL ESTABLISH GOVERNMENT IN TEL AVIV: Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, predicted on Mon. 31 Dec. 2018 that Palestinian Arabs will eventually

establish a government in Tel Aviv. “Palestine will remain powerful and the Palestinian nation’s final victory will take place in the near future,” said Khamenei. He added, “As long as there is resistance, the Zionist regime’s downfall and demise will continue. During the past years, the Palestinian people’s victory was not to establish a government in Tel Aviv, which will eventually be realized, but the main victory was bringing the Zionist regime to knees, a feat that Arab armies could never accomplish,” continued Khamenei. He referred to the recent escalation in Gaza, during which Gazan terrorist groups fired nearly 500 rockets at southern Israel in one day, claiming Israel saw an overwhelming response that forced it to call for a truce after only two days. He said also that Iran will never back away from supporting “Palestine” despite the heavy pressure from the world’s “arrogant” powers. The Supreme Leader has several times in the past referred to the Jewish state as a “cancer” and threatened to “annihilate” the cities of Tel Aviv and Haifa.

IRANIAN MULLAHS LOCK ON POWER IS SHAKIER THAN EVER: A year ago, Iranians poured into their streets to denounce Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and call for an end to his brutal regime. Protests have continued unabated since, though these are smaller in number and less visible to foreign media. Still entrenched and viciously clinging to life, the Islamic Republic is nevertheless more vulnerable than it has ever been since the 1979 revolution. Today, unpaid factory workers, teachers, farmers and truck drivers are some of the most organized and motivated anti-regime forces. The southwestern city of Ahvaz experienced anti-regime labor protests last month. Truck drivers were also on nationwide strikes for much of 2018, blocking major roadways and access to gas stations over low pay and rising tolls. Farmers in Isfahan, in central Iran, have turned their backs against regime clerics during Friday prayers and chanted: “Our back to the enemy, our faces to our nation.” Another favorite slogan: “They say our enemy is America, when the real enemy is right here” — meaning the mullahs.

The sources of popular anger vary, from water shortages to economic collapse to frustration with social restrictions. Most important, recent years have disabused Iranians of the illusion of “reform” peddled by so-called moderates like President Hassan Rouhani. The people have learned that such rhetoric only masks the country’s environmental, economic and social devastation under the mullahs. Today the regime confronts a crisis without precedent, owing to the sheer breadth of social discontent. Even insiders such as former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad believe that Iran may soon face a complete revolution.

POLL: ISRAELIS ARE TIRED: The Central Bureau of Statistics has published data on the subject of sleep among Israeli citizens aged 20 and over, showing only 25 percent sleep the recommended eight hours or more. Fifty-eight percent get either six or seven hours sleep. Twelve percent reported worries have interfered with sleep frequently in the past year. Fifty-four percent feel tired during the day and 14% feel very tired. Seven percent took prescription medications for sleep, 4% of them every night or almost every night. (INN) Pray that the levels of sleep disorders in Israel will not lead to the increased use of dangerous opiate medications to ward off sleeplessness during the night hours. Also, Israelis, like many residing in the West and the Middle East nations, need to exercise more and to curb growing levels of obesity. Egypt, for one, has the biggest weight problem of the world's 20 most populous countries.

NEW RAMON AIRPORT TO OPEN THIS MONTH: Israel will inaugurate a new international airport in the south of the country near the Red Sea later this month, the transport minister announced on Tues. 1 Jan. 2019. The Ramon airport will begin with only domestic flights before gradually moving toward full operation, said Transport Minister Yisrael Katz. The inauguration ceremony will be held on 21 Jan. 2019 with PM Netanyahu in attendance. The airport will be some 11 miles from the Israeli Red Sea resort of Eilat and near the Jordanian port of Aqaba. It will be able to initially handle up to two million passengers annually, but is expected to expand to a capacity of 4.2 million by 2030. The new airport is named after Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut who died when the space shuttle Columbia broke apart on reentry in 2003.

DECEMBER: RECORD MONTH FOR RAIN: According to Israel’s Meteorological Service a number of stations in Samaria and the coastal plain recorded Dec. 2018 rainfall quantities unseen in those areas since

Dec. 1991. The month was also characterized by a multiplicity of rain days compared to the average for December. For example, the coastal plain recorded 18-19 days of rain, compared with 9-11 days generally. At this early stage of the precipitation season, about half of the annual amount of rainfall fell around the country, with most of the winter still ahead.



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