

# ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update February 21, 2019*** ***(16<sup>TH</sup> Adar-A, 5779)***



## ***For the Yachad Report Newsletter For February 2019***

**SEA OF GALILEE RISES OVER 4 FEET SINCE START OF WINTER:** The water level of Lake Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee) has risen more than four feet since the rainy season began in late October 2018. According to the Water Authority, the Kinneret has been steadily rising, increasing by some four inches since Thur. 14 Feb. 2019. Despite current rainfall and the lake's increased water levels, the Kinneret is still more than 16 feet below the mark that is considered full. Water levels are expected to rise as the winter progresses.

**ILHAN OMAR TO FUNDRAISE FOR ISLAMIC TERROR ORGANIZATION:** Democratic Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar is scheduled to raise money in March 2019 with the Hamas-linked Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) only a week after she used an anti-Semitic trope to claim Israel had paid for GOP support. Omar will be the keynote speaker at CAIR's 4th Annual Valley Banquet on 23 March 2019 to discuss advancing justice and empowering Muslims, according to the organization's invitation. Single tickets start at \$55 per person and a table can cost upwards of \$500. Hassan Shibly, the chief executive director for CAIR-Florida, will also be speaking at the event. Shibly has emphatically stated that Hezbollah and Hamas are not terrorist organizations. Hussam Ayloush, the chief executive director for CAIR-LA, who is hosting the event, compared the state of Israel to ISIS during a speech in April 2018. Shibley has repeatedly echoed those sentiments. CAIR is a notable pro-Palestinian organization with ties to Islamic terror groups. The USA Department of Justice listed CAIR as a co-conspirator in funding millions of dollars to the terrorist organization Hamas. Additionally, the United Arab Emirates named CAIR a terrorist organization in 2014.

Omar faced massive backlash after she stated on 10 Feb. 2019 that Republicans' support for Israel is bought by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). The anti-Semitic comments received swift condemnation from congressional members on both sides of the aisle, including the Democratic leadership and the White House. Omar has been in office less than two months and is surrounded by a number of controversies. The freshman congresswoman defended anti-Israeli statements, such as ones invoking Allah to

expose Israel's "evil doings," and she has come out in favor of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, which seeks to punish the nation-state of Israel by economically depriving the country for its alleged mistreatment of Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip and Judea & Samaria. The Minnesota congresswoman is also on record for implying Israel is not a democracy and gave an interview to a host that referred to Israel as the "Jewish ISIS." Omar and Democratic Michigan Rep. Rashida Tlaib became America's first Muslim congresswomen when sworn into office in January 2019. Their time in office has been embroiled in allegations of anti-Semitism.

**BDS FAIL: MUSLIM CONGRESSWOMAN USED ISRAELI TECHNOLOGY:** The Israel Advocacy Movement has uncovered an ironic fact about newly elected USA Democratic congresswoman Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), who has endorsed the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. In a video published on Sunday 17 Feb. 2019 the organization revealed that Tlaib's website was built using Wix, an Israeli company that provides a free platform for web development. The video exposes several other activists and organizations that have used Wix to build their websites. These include, among others, Washington University Students Against Apartheid, Students Against Apartheid at the University of Utah, Football for Palestine and Boycott Divest and Sanction Israel. Tlaib, in addition to backing BDS, was asked in a past television interview whether she would vote against military aid to Israel when she goes to Congress and replied "absolutely". "USA aid should be leverage," she said. "If you're going to be a country that discriminates on somebody solely based on their faith, solely based on their skin color to me, that doesn't fit our value of our country." Tlaib and the others mentioned in the Israel Advocacy Movement's video are not the first anti-Israel activists discovered to have used Wix for their websites. In 2015, the University of Denver's branch of Students for Justice in Palestine was discovered to have used Wix to build its website meant to disseminate its call for a boycott of Israel. Two years earlier, the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland (ZF) discovered that "pro-Palestinian" activists who promote the BDS movement against Israel had similarly used Wix to create their websites.

**BDS MOVEMENT UNDERMINES SOUTH AFRICANS:** The path taken by the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement in South Africa (BDS-SA) to selectively discriminate against entrepreneurial and business opportunities by corporations linked to Israel, if not challenged, may lead to unwarranted job losses in South Africa. With the unemployment rate remaining alarmingly high at 27%, the South African reality necessitates the need to focus on the economy and maintain trade relations with other countries that excel in certain vital economic aspects. This is in the best interests of the people of South Africa. A few days ago, BDS-SA threatened to disrupt investments from Brimstone Investment Corporation that has committed to developing and improving South Africa's biggest dairy company, Clover. Why is BDS-SA so willing to sacrifice its fellow South African workers for its own self-serving position? The call by BDS-SA undermines the strides made by President Cyril Ramaphosa to attract vital foreign investment. Palestinian Authority officials were recently seen sitting around a table with several juice bottles, all products from Israel. How does BDS-SA call on South African companies to boycott Israeli products while Palestinian leaders themselves are not boycotting those same products? BDS-SA does not hold any electoral mandate and its lobbying must not be at the expense of the South African worker.

**BASHAR ASSAD HAS USED CHEMICAL WEAPONS 300 TIMES SINCE OBAMA'S 'RED LINE':** The Syrian government and affiliated forces have launched more than 300 attacks using chemical weapons in the past eight years, ranging from nerve agents to chlorine bombs, a report by the Berlin-based Global Public Policy Institute said on Sunday 17 Feb. 2019. Medical workers in opposition-held areas say they have treated more than 5,000 people for chemical exposure since 2012, and that at least 188 people died after chlorine attacks. The comprehensive study makes the case that Assad has gone unpunished for his use of chemical weapons. This is in spite of then President Barack Obama's declaration in August 2013 that Syria's use of chemical weapons was a "red line" that would lead to a military response from the USA. Instead, the administration struck a deal that centered on Russia overseeing the supposed dismantling and destruction of

Assad's chemical weapons capability. That process appears to have been little more than a sham, as chemical weapons have remained strewn across Syria for years afterward. Notably, there have been no confirmed uses of chemical weapons since President Trump ordered retaliatory airstrikes against the Assad regime in April 2018, the study says, suggesting the USA military action had a real impact on the Syrian leader's strategy.

**ISRAELI CABINET TO CUT \$140 MILLION IN FUNDS TO PA:** The political-security Cabinet decided on Sunday 17 Feb. 2019 to implement the policy to offset the Palestinian Authority's payments to terrorists. Under the law passed by the Knesset in July 2018, \$140,350,300 in tax revenue will be withheld from the PA. According to a Defense Ministry report, the PA paid that amount to terrorists in Israeli prisons, to released terrorists, and to their families in 2018. The government will withhold funds equal to what the PA provided to terrorists last year. Education Minister Naftali Bennett said that "the despicable Palestinian terrorist who murdered Ori Ansbacher, is expected to begin receiving a monthly salary of NIS 20,000 (\$5,528) in the coming days. The terrorists are no longer afraid, and at this moment they are preparing the next terrible murder of Jews, because they know they will receive a high salary for themselves and their families for life."

**IRAN REVEALS NEW CRUISE MISSILE SUBMARINE:** The Iranian military revealed its newest naval vessel last weekend – a Fateh class submarine. The boat was reportedly completed in Dec. 2013, the Iranian military said, but underwent extensive testing, beginning in 2014. The Fateh is Iran's first semi-heavy submarine, weighing 600 tons. The new boat will be able to remain submerged at below 200 meters underwater for five weeks. According to Iran's Tasnim outlet, the Fateh is equipped with a guided-missile system for launching cruise missiles and is armed with four torpedoes, two reserve torpedoes, and eight mines. Aside from the Fateh, Iran's military is also working on two new submarines, both significantly larger than the Fateh class. One boat is estimated at 1,300 tones, the second at 3,200. Maysam Bizar, an Iranian political commentator, called the unveiling of the Fateh a message intended to create a "deterrent factor" against the USA. "There are definitely messages, which are being conveyed to Washington," said Bizar.

**PENCE SAYS TIME HAS COME FOR EU TO WITHDRAW FROM IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL:** USA Vice President Mike Pence pressed European countries on Saturday 16 Feb. 2019 to withdraw from a nuclear deal between Iran and major powers. "The time has come for our European partners to stand with us and with the Iranian people," Pence told the Munich Security Conference. "The time has come for our European partners to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal." Pence accused Iran of anti-Semitism akin to the Nazis following his recent visit to the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland that had strengthened his resolve to act against Tehran. "We have the regime in Tehran that's breathing out murderous threats, with the same vile anti-Semitic hatred that animated the Nazis in Europe," Pence told reporters. He said that being in Auschwitz had made him reflect to "strengthen the resolve of the free world to oppose that kind of vile hatred and to confront authoritarian threats of our time."

**OCASIO-CORTEZ BREAKS SILENCE ON ILHAN OMAR'S ANTI-ISRAEL COMMENTS: 'I'M PROUD':** Democrat New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has praised fellow Democrat, Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar, for claiming Republicans' support for Israel is bought by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). "Unlike this President, Rep. Omar demonstrated a capacity to acknowledge pain & apologize, to use the opportunity to learn about the history of anti-Semitism grow from it while clarifying her stance," Ocasio-Cortez tweeted. Omar is facing massive backlash after she quote-tweeted a link to an article written by Israeli media sources in which House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy threatened punishment against Omar and Democratic Michigan Rep. Rashida Tlaib, America's first two Muslim congresswomen. Both Omar and Tlaib have been embroiled in allegations of anti-Semitism. While Omar has been in office less than two months, she has been surrounded by a number of controversies involving anti-Semitism. The freshman congresswoman defended anti-Israeli statements, such as ones invoking Allah to expose Israel's "evil doings," and she has come out in favor of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which seeks to punish the nation-state of Israel by economically depriving the country for its alleged

mistreatment of Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip and Judea & Samaria. Omar was also on the record implying that Israel is not a democracy and gave an interview to a host that called Israel “Jewish ISIS.” Ocasio-Cortez has likewise made some eyebrow-raising statements about Jews. The New York congresswoman also received backlash after she expressed gratitude for her correspondence with Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the UK’s Labour Party. Corbyn has been plagued with accusations of anti-Semitism and has a long history of condemning Israel while applauding anti-Jewish terrorist organizations. Ocasio-Cortez is part of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) that supports BDS.

**PENCE: OMAR’S TWEETS ‘A DISGRACE’:** USA Vice President Mike Pence on Tues. night 12 Feb. 2019 denounced Rep. Ilhan Omar’s (D-MN) anti-Semitic tweets, calling them “a disgrace” and adding that “her apology was inadequate.” “Anti-Semitism has no place in the United States Congress, much less the Foreign Affairs Committee. Those who engage in anti-Semitic tropes should not just be denounced, they should face consequences for their words,” he wrote on Twitter. Omar, a Muslim, caused an uproar after she responded on Twitter to a previous threat by Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) to take action against her because of her past statements on Israel. Omar suggested that lawmakers’ support for Israel was influenced by money. Democratic leaders blasted Omar for her comments. In an attempt to do damage control, Omar apologized for the tweets. Earlier on Tuesday, President Donald Trump called on Omar to resign from Congress following her anti-Semitic tweets and described her apology as “lame”.

**THE UNFOLDING OF OMAR’S POLITICAL CAREER:** It isn’t hard to see how Ilhan Omar’s Congressional career will unfold: she will continue to repeat anti-Semitic tropes; she will blame jihad massacres on the USA, Israel, and the victims; and she will continue to claim victim status when called out for her hatred. Omar is a far Leftist and a devout, Sharia-adherent Muslim; neither group is distinguished for mavericks or original thinkers. In fact, both are marked by an ideological lockstep that brooks no dissent, disagreement, or fair consideration of opposing ideas. That makes Omar’s future drearily predictable. And so when considering the sincerity of Omar’s apology, it should be borne in mind that she wouldn’t be where she is today, in the House of Representatives, if her views were not widely shared among the very Democrat leadership that rebuked her on Mon. 11 Feb. 2019. For it isn’t as if Omar’s anti-Semitic tweets from Sunday were something new. Before she was elected to Congress, she had denounced what she called “the apartheid Israeli regime,” and claimed that Israel had “hypnotized the world” to ignore its “evil doings.” Nancy Pelosi either knew this or was criminally negligent when she named Omar to the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Democrat Party during the Obama years hardened its stance against Israel. Omar was only able to rise in its ranks and gain a plum assignment as a first-term Representative not in spite of her anti-Semitism, but because of it. A Jan. 2018 Pew Research Center poll found that only 27 percent of Democrats sympathized more with the Israelis than with the Palestinians. This is extraordinary in light of the fact that both the Palestinian Authority and Hamas routinely incite hatred of and violence against Israel in their official media organs. They teach children that it is a good and noble thing to want to grow up and kill Jews. The Democrats have for years ignored this genocidal incitement, and approved of and even participated in the demonization of Israel in the international media and at the UN. And so now the Democrats are appalled at their Muslim Representative’s Jew-hatred, and she is contrite? Do they really expect anyone to fall for this charade? It is noteworthy that while the Republican House leadership stripped Rep. Steve King (R-IA) of his committee assignments for a misquote, Omar has not been removed from the Foreign Affairs Committee. Nor will she be removed. She is exactly where the Democrat leadership wants her to be.

**DATA OF LABOUR ANTI-SEMITISM RELEASED:** The storm of anti-Semitism in the British Labour Party is not subsiding, and the Jews in the party are furious. Party Secretary Jenny Formby said the party had received 673 complaints of anti-Semitic acts by its members in the past 10 months alone, revealing the figure after pressure from party MPs. According to her, 96 party members were suspended immediately from the party because of their behavior between April 2018 and January 2019, and 12 were expelled from the Labour

ranks. But Jewish Labour MPs claimed that this information is incomplete. During the weekly parliamentary session of the Labour Party, there were demands to know how many people were being interrogated, how many letters had been sent to the defendants demanding that they stop their actions, and what punitive actions had been taken beyond what Formby had stated. Jewish MPs Ruth Smith and Dade Margaret Hodge suggested that thousands of cases of Jew-hatred were omitted from the data. "It's not over," Smith said. "Hodge said that she alone reported to the party's administration about more than 200 cases of anti-Semitism directed against her. Jewish Member of Parliament Luciana Berger brought to their attention anti-Semitic messages made by a party member who had not yet been removed from the Labour ranks. MP John Mann spoke of the hatred directed against him and his family by certain party members, who said he sensed the power of anti-Semitic hatred even though he was not Jewish.

**MASSIVE SPIKE IN ANTI-SEMITIC VIOLENCE IN GERMANY IN 2018:** Anti-Semitic crimes rose almost 10% in Germany last year, and violent attacks were up more than 60%, crime statistics showed Wed. 13 Feb. 2019. Police recorded 1,646 offences motivated by hatred against Jews. Among these were 62 violent offences that left 43 people injured, up from 37 physical attacks the previous year. Germany, like other western countries, has watched with alarm as anti-Semitic and other racist hate speech and violence have increased in recent years as the political climate has coarsened and grown more polarized. A mass influx of mostly Muslim refugees and migrants to Germany from 2015 fueled the growth of far-right movements and nationalist parties, including the AfD. Leading AfD members, aside from railing against multiculturalism, have also made comments that play down the Holocaust. At the same time, Germany has also witnessed a rise in anti-Semitic attacks committed by migrants from Arab states. In one prominent case last year a 19-year-old Syrian man was convicted for assault after lashing out with his belt at an Israeli man wearing a Jewish kippa skullcap while shouting "yahudi", Jew in Arabic. Most anti-Semitic crimes were however committed by far-right perpetrators, reported the Berlin daily Tagesspiegel in an article on the new crime statistics.

**MACRON SLAMS 'UNACCEPTABLE' SURGE OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN FRANCE:** French President Emmanuel Macron on Wed. 13 Feb. 2019 condemned an "unacceptable increase" in anti-Semitic vandalism and hate speech, linking it to a wave of demonstrations against his government. "Anti-Semitism is a repudiation of the Republic, in the same way that attacking elected officials or institutions is a repudiation of the Republic," Macron told ministers at a cabinet meeting. There has been widespread outrage over recent anti-Jewish graffiti and vandalism in and around Paris including the desecration of a memorial to a young Jewish man who was tortured to death in 2006. Government officials have suggested the anti-Semitic acts could be blamed in part on far-left and far-right activists.

**EUROPE CONFERENCE OF RABBIS: 'NEO-NAZI BUDAPEST MARCH REMINISCENT OF DARK DAYS':** In the center of Budapest, Hungary, a mass march of inflamed neo-Nazis recently chanted anti-Semitic slogans using symbols and fascist posters. Despite protests and appeals by Jewish organizations around the world, the Hungarian authorities chose to ignore the traditional parade. President of the Conference of Rabbis of Europe and rabbi of Moscow Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt responded by saying that the images of Budapest are unbearable and painful and remind us of the darkest chapters of the last century. "The indifference of the Hungarian authorities is shocking, and they must take into account the influence of such hate messages." Rabbi Goldschmidt added that "we are very concerned about the dangerous consequences in Europe: the number of anti-Semites, history writers and Holocaust deniers growing in Europe, both left and right. The hate crimes and the new anti-Semitic legislation have spread more and more, as we have seen in the attack on the synagogue in Pittsburgh and elsewhere in Europe. The problem is not only in the march and its ramifications, but mainly reveals the hatred that bubbles beneath the surface and is liable to erupt. We demand a determined struggle against anti-Semitism and its hate messages from all those responsible in Europe so that the Jews can live in security and tranquility and uphold their way of life everywhere without fear."

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