

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update March 21, 2019 ***(14th Adar-B, 5779)***



For the Yachad Report Newsletter For March 2019

TWO TERROR ATTACKS NEAR ARIEL: A Palestinian Arab terrorist on Sunday 17 March 2019 went on a stabbing and shooting spree that initially left one Israeli dead and two more in critical condition. The first Israeli man killed in a combination stabbing and shooting attack in Samaria was identified as a 19-year-old IDF sergeant from the southern Israeli city of Beer Sheva. A second victim, Rabbi Ahia Ettinger, passed away after succumbing to his wounds on Mon.18 March 2019. Ettinger, 47, a resident of the Israeli town of Eli in Samaria, is survived by his wife and 12 children, ages one to 20. The prolonged attack began near the Samaria Jewish settlement of Ariel, where the terrorist assaulted an Israeli soldier near a bus stop. After stabbing the soldier, the terrorist managed to seize his rifle and immediately opened fire on passing vehicles, hitting an Israeli motorist. Another Israeli driver ran from his vehicle, which the terrorist then stole and drove off in the direction of Tel Aviv. At the next major junction, the terrorist again opened fire, hitting another Israeli soldier waiting at a hitchhiking post. From there, the terrorist drove to the nearby Palestinian village of Burqin, where he abandoned the stolen vehicle and disappeared. Israeli forces are conducting a manhunt in search of the killer. Meanwhile, Palestinians distributed sweets in the southern Gaza Strip on Sunday morning 17 March 2019 in celebration of the terror attacks in Ariel.

HAMAS SUPPRESSES SOCIAL PROTEST IN GAZA: The official Palestinian Authority (PA) news agency Wafa reported that Hamas gunmen attacked, using live ammunition and clubs, hundreds of residents throughout Gaza who were protesting in demand to improve their living conditions and cancel the fees and taxes levied on basic goods. Wafa quoted eyewitnesses who said that Hamas' armed militia operatives chased the demonstrators who tried to reach the gathering places in several towns in Gaza, in accordance with a call by the youth movement that promoted the social protest under the slogan "We want to live." Violent confrontations took place in towns and villages across Gaza. In several places, the demonstrators were able to set tires on fire and fly banners against the cost of living and against the violence against them. The

demonstrations against the cost of living continued on Saturday 16 March 2019 for the third consecutive day in Gaza. On Friday, the so-called "March of the Return" processions along the border fence with Israel were canceled, possibly in light of the spreading of the social protest directed against the Hamas authorities. Pictures posted on social media showed residents, including young people, who were seriously injured by Hamas gangs.

REPORT: IDF IS PREPARING TO DESTROY HAMAS: According to Hebrew news sources, Israel's military echelon has approved a plan to reconquer the Gaza Strip, at least temporarily, and destroy Hamas' militarily. The army believes that the need for such an operation may be imminent, as the situation in Gaza is extremely volatile. The IDF is considering several reasons that could set off a conflict: The unintentional death of a senior official or Palestinian children during the ongoing border riots, the Hamas leadership's desire to distract from the economic crisis in the Strip, and the rise of Palestinian Islamic Jihad as an even more radical and violent organization than Hamas. In addition, Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas has a strong desire for Hamas' decimation, either by Israel or through a Hamas "surrender" induced by economic and political pressure. Hamas is aware of this, and therefore wants some kind of mediation from Egypt that will persuade Israel to remove economic restrictions on the Strip. Without this, the IDF believes Hamas may deliberately trigger a major war. As a result of these considerations, the IDF has undertaken a comprehensive plan for taking over the Strip and eliminating Hamas. What will happen next is uncertain. The options include an international force to govern the Strip, handing the territory back to the PA, or the possibility of extended Israeli military rule.

EGYPT THREATENS HAMAS: 'ISRAEL WILL DEFEAT YOU': Egyptian intelligence officials seethed with anger on Thur. night 14 March 2019 after missiles were fired from Gaza at Tel Aviv. One of the Egyptian delegates present in Gaza during those dramatic moments told Israeli media sources about the delegation's conversation with Hamas that evening. "At the beginning of the meeting the atmosphere was very relaxed," said the Egyptian official. "We had just returned from Israel with answers, we estimated that Hamas would accept them and allow us to begin a stable, long-term peace. A few minutes later, one of the Egyptian delegation's aides entered the room looking worried, and gave the delegation leaders his cellular phone. The smiles immediately turned into frowns, and senior delegates turned to Hamas leader Yahyah Sinwar and yelled at him: 'Where do you think you'll end up with your double play? We're sitting here to finalize a peace agreement with Israel, and behind our backs you allow your people to fire missiles at Tel Aviv?? If Israel decides to start a wide scale operation in Gaza, this time we're not going to do anything to stop the Israeli attacks. Even if Israel decides to bring down your rule in Gaza by assassinating every single one of you, while they reconquer Gaza. Egypt and its regional allies will not lift a finger to stop the Israeli response.'"

NEW ALBERT EINSTEIN MANUSCRIPTS REVEALED: Earlier this month, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem unveiled 110 new Einstein manuscript pages, most of which have not been displayed before, shedding light on the scientist and the man behind the science. Einstein was one of the founding fathers of Hebrew University and he bequeathed his personal and scientific writings to the university. The university's Albert Einstein Archives contains more than 80,000 items, including manuscripts, correspondences, photographs, diplomas, and medals. The new manuscripts were purchased from a private collector in North Carolina. The collection contains: 84 sheets, most of them mathematical derivations from 1944-48; a handwritten, unpublished appendix to a scientific article on the Unified Theory that Einstein submitted to the Prussian Academy of Science in 1930. This appendix was thought lost until now. It included a 1935 letter from Einstein to his son Hans Albert, who was living in Switzerland at the time. Einstein, in the letter, expressed concern about the deteriorating situation in Europe and the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany. The collection also contains four letters from Einstein to his lifelong friend and fellow scientist, Michele Besso. Three of the 1916 letters refer to Einstein's monumental work on the absorption and emission of light by atoms. This idea later became the basis for laser technology. In the fourth letter, Einstein confesses that after

50 years of thinking about it, he still does not understand the quantum nature of light. Following the preservation and digitization of these new documents, HU's Einstein Archives is working with Caltech's Prof. Diana Kormos-Buchwald to decipher the scientific and mathematical contexts for many of the calculations in this new collection.

ISRAEL TAKES HOME SIX MEDALS IN ABU DHABI'S SPECIAL OLYMPICS: Israel had a successful weekend winning six medals in swimming, bowling, and Judo in the Abu Dhabi 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games this March. Israel took home a gold and two bronze medals in swimming. Avital Naveh won a gold medal in the women's 100-meter medley, a combination of butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle. She also won a bronze medal for the backstroke 100-meter. Gilad Kalishov won a bronze in the men's 50-meter swim. An Israeli, Dekel Bar-Nir, also took the bronze medal in Judo. Two Israeli bowling teams also brought home a bronze and a silver medal. These teams were made of those with and without disabilities. There are 25 Israelis participating in the Special Olympics this year. In total there are 7,000 athletes from 192 countries around the world. In the upcoming days, Israelis will compete in more swimming, Judo and bowling competitions.

1,700-YEAR-OLD INSCRIPTION FOUND AT NEGEV EXCAVATION: Archaeologists have uncovered a Greek inscription at the Haluza excavation in southern Israel indicating the name of the town. The name Haluza is mentioned in many historic sources, but this is the first archaeological evidence for the name of the city of Haluza found at the site itself. It is one of the two main possible locations for the Biblical city of Ziklag, mentioned in Genesis and I Samuel. Haluza was an important station for Christian pilgrims on their way to the Monastery of Santa Catarina in southern Sinai. In addition, a church and a bathhouse were uncovered in the area. Researchers succeeded in reconstructing the city plan, identifying the main streets as well as the building style of the city. Haluza was established at the end of the 4th century BC as an important station on the Incense Route - the road that led from Petra in today's Jordan, to Gaza, which at the time had a Jewish community. It continued to develop and reached its peak in the Byzantine period, from the 4th to 6th centuries AD when tens of thousands of residents lived there. Haluza was the only major city in the Negev region during this period.

REPUBLICANS PROPOSE RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN ANTI-SEMITISM AND OMAR: Four Republicans on Thur. 14 March 2019 proposed a new House Resolution specifically calling out Minnesota Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar for previous comments she's made about Israel. Reps. Greg Steube, Jim Sensenbrenner, Jeff Duncan, and Louie Gohmert brought the resolution forward to condemn many of Omar's comments about Israel that have gained negative attention as well as how Democratic leadership handled her most recent remarks. It mentions Omar's now-deleted 2012 tweet in which she accused Israel of having "hypnotized the world." The text of the resolution also brings up more recent comments that Omar has made since being sworn into office. In Feb. 2019, the Minnesota congresswoman accused the pro-Israel lobbying group American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) of buying pro-Israel support from American politicians in a tweet. Omar was rebuked by both parties.

Omar's most recent remark that received backlash - accusing members of Congress of having a "dual loyalty" with the United States and Israel - was also referenced in the document. Lastly, it goes on to condemn Speaker Pelosi and Democratic Party leadership for their handling of the incident. "Democratic leadership failed to primarily and directly address Representative Omar's anti-Semitic remarks in a resolution that should have been specifically about anti-Semitism so as to address the rising threat thereof," the resolution reads in part. This resolution comes a week after the House passed a resolution in response to Omar's comments condemning bigotry against "African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other people of color, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, immigrants and others," without specifically naming Omar. The original resolution passed with a vote of 407-23, with all 23 "Nays" coming from Republicans. Many of them cited their beliefs that the final draft of the resolution no longer

accomplished the goal they set out to reach - a condemnation of Omar's comments and of anti-Semitism in general.

ONLINE PETITION CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION OF OMAR, TLAIB, AND CAIR: An online petition started by the group Stop Anti-Semitism calls on the USA attorney general William Barr and special anti-Semitism envoy Elan Carr to take a deep look at the Council on American-Islamic Relations, CAIR. The petition, shared on [change.org](https://www.change.org) with more than 1,000 signatures so far, calls into question what lies behind CAIR. It claims that Congresswomen Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib are "strong allies" of the organization and that the organization helped get these Muslim women into office. On the petition web page, it explains that CAIR was founded following a 1993 meeting in Philadelphia of the USA Muslim Brotherhood's Palestine Committee, which the Department of Justice has described as a covert organization established to support Hamas. In 2007, CAIR was listed as a co-conspirator in the case that found the Holy Land Foundation responsible for siphoning over \$12 million to Hamas. A 2009 ruling by USA District Court Judge Jorge A. Solis determined that CAIR is Hamas. The petition questions what precisely the two Muslim Congresswomen are themselves loyal to after challenging the dual loyalty of the members of the Jewish-American community. CAIR will host Omar at its 4th Annual Valley Banquet in Los Angeles on 23 March 2019.

CAIR SUPPORTS TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS: CAIR is known for supporting terrorist organizations that have acted against Israel and the United States, including Hamas and Hezbollah. FBI investigators uncovered evidence establishing CAIR's place in the "Palestine Committee," which was a Muslim Brotherhood-created network aimed at helping Hamas in the United States, according to a report by the Investigative Project on Terrorism. In 2009, USA District Court Judge Jorge Solis ruled that there is "a case confirming CAIR's involvement in a conspiracy to support Hamas." Moreover, the organization was officially designated a terrorist organization by the United Arab Emirates in 2014, placing it in the company of al-Qaeda, ISIS, and others. "CAIR and Hamas are one in the same," said Justice to the Nations founder Laurie Cardoza-Moore earlier this month. She has accused Congresswoman Ilhan Omar (D-MN) of being a "Hamas plant" in Congress. She further claimed, "Ilhan Omar openly fundraising for CAIR means she is not just a rabid anti-Semite, but a real threat to our national security."

WHY THE DEBATE OVER ANTI-SEMITISM IS SO IMPORTANT: Anti-Semitism, the oldest of hatreds, is proving to be, as a leading Irish writer and politician once put it, a very light sleeper. It has set off a full-blown crisis inside Britain's Labour Party, and the first hints of one inside the Democratic Party in the USA. The stereotyping and dehumanization of Jews, once the province of fringe figures, has increasingly been given space within the mainstream. Moreover, there is a real human cost. Synagogues, Jewish cemeteries, and other Jewish property have been attacked. And Jews have been assaulted, even murdered, in Western countries - on a scale that for decades after the Nazi Holocaust would have seemed unthinkable.

DONALD TRUMP PRAISES 'JEXODUS' MOVEMENT, INVITES JEWISH PEOPLE TO JOIN REPUBLICANS: President Trump on Friday 15 March 2019 called on American Jews to join the "Jexodus" movement" following "total disrespect" by Democrats. The president advertised the "Jexodus" grassroots campaign, a movement to get Jewish millennials to leave the Democratic Party, as part of a continued claim that the party is anti-Semitic. "The 'Jexodus' movement encourages Jewish people to leave the Democrat Party," Mr. Trump tweeted. "Total disrespect! Republicans are waiting with open arms. Remember Jerusalem (USA Embassy) and the horrible Iran Nuclear Deal!" Trump's response came after an interview on One America News Network with Elizabeth Pipko, a spokeswoman for the "Jexodus" movement. "We're super excited to get people involved, excited for 2020, finally voting to our own values, our own conscience and ready to fight against the narrative that tells us what we should do and who we should vote for," she said. The president and Republicans have been saying that Democrats are the "anti-Israel" party after freshman Rep. Ilhan Omar, Minnesota Democrat, made several controversial comments that many said were anti-Semitic. Democrats recently passed a bill in the House denouncing prejudice of all kinds, but many said it did not go

far enough to condemn Omar's comments. *(Some 52% of American Jews identified themselves as Democrats in a combined Gallup tracking poll data for 2018, which encompassed over 75,000 interviews with USA adults, including 938 self-identified Jewish Americans. Jews were the religious group with the highest percentage identifying as Democrats. The data was released earlier this month. Pray for American Jews to closely examine their true beliefs and stands on political statements and policies that negatively affect Israel and the Jewish people, also with regard to horrifying pro-abortion laws so liberally supported by the Democratic Party. Many USA Jews identify and cast their votes for the Democrats simply out of decades of habit and tradition).*

HOUSE DEMOCRATS BLOCK BILL TO STOP INFANTICIDE FOR 17th TIME, REFUSE CARE FOR ABORTED BABIES BORN ALIVE: On Wed.13 March 2019, two weeks after Senate Democrats voted to block a bill to stop infanticide, House Democrats blocked a request by Republicans to vote on a similar bill to require medical care and treatment for babies who survive abortions. This is the 19th time Congressional Democrats thwarted an attempt by Republicans to vote on a bill that would provide medical care and treatment for babies who survived failed abortions - 17 times in the House and twice in the Senate. Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) offered the unanimous consent request to allow a vote on the anti-infanticide bill but Democrats ruled it out of order. After Democrats denied Johnson's request to vote on the bill he criticized them for failing to allow a vote. As Democrats have done on six occasions, the pro-life Congressman's microphone was ultimately cut off as he attempted to speak further on the legislation. After Democrats blocked the vote, Congressman Wenstrup said, "As a doctor, I strongly believe that every patient, especially those infants born alive, should be given appropriate medical care. This should not even be a question. It's our duty, as Members of Congress, to defend the God-given right to life for every baby in this situation. And it's our duty as compassionate human beings to ensure that these uniquely vulnerable babies receive the care that they deserve."

Every single Democrat in the Senate who is running for president voted against the bill that would stop infanticide and provide medical care and treatment for babies who are born alive after botched abortions. That includes Bernie Sanders, Kamala Harris, Cory Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Kirsten Gillibrand, and Amy Klobuchar. While they all voted to support infanticide, President Trump spoke out against infanticide in two tweets saying that it's nothing short of "executing" babies to let them die after failed abortions. The blocking of the bill to stop infanticide comes even as national polling shows Americans - including people who are "pro-choice" on abortion - oppose abortion up to birth and infanticide. And doctors indicate abortions are never needed to protect a woman's health and women admit having abortions on healthy babies. A new poll finds a massive 17% shift in the pro-life direction after Democrats have pushed abortions up to birth and infanticide nationally.

JNN SPECIAL REPORT: HAMAS ATTACKS TEL AVIV WITH ROCKETS - A CALL FOR INTERCESSION: Dear readers and intercessors, another vicious provocation against Israel, on the part of the Hamas terrorist group and its associates operating from the Gaza Strip took place on Thur. night, 14 March 2019. Two rockets launched from the Gaza Strip were fired at the heart of the country, Tel-Aviv, for the first time since the war with Hamas in 2014; a further determined attempt to engage Israel in another full-scale conflict. We present you with the details and international feedback as it has unfolded until early Saturday 16 March 2019, and ask you to both pray and to pass the news on to prayer groups and friends who love Israel for focused intercession. Israel's government - to the criticism of many within the country - is doing its best to avoid another full-scale clash in the Gaza Strip. Ongoing weekly violent demonstrations at the Gaza Strip border; incendiary devices being launched at Israel's southern communities and landing in areas close to schools and pre-schools, firebombs, rock throwing, shootings, stabbings and all manner of violent attacks are being carried out by Hamas and terrorists operating from the Gaza Strip and also in Judea & Samaria. Such provocation and brutality would never be allowed in any Western country with impunity!

Now, a dual rocket attack on Israel's second largest city, Tel Aviv ratchets up the risk of wide-spread national and regional danger.

TWO ROCKETS FIRED AT TEL AVIV FROM GAZA FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2014 WAR: Rocket sirens were triggered Thur. evening 14 March 2019 in the Tel Aviv area in central Israel, as two rockets from the Gaza Strip were fired at the heart of the country for the first time since the war of 2014. The attack signals a possible dramatic escalation of violence by terror groups in the Strip just weeks before the Knesset elections. Residents of Israel's second-largest city and the surrounding metropolis of Gush Dan rushed to bomb shelters and reported hearing explosions. The rockets both hit open areas and did not cause casualties. However, five people were treated for shock by paramedics. The Iron Dome missile defense system was launched to intercept the incoming rockets. Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai has ordered all bomb shelters in the city to be opened after the rockets were launched at Tel Aviv.

IDF HITS MORE THAN 100 HAMAS TARGETS IN GAZA AFTER ROCKETS FIRED AT TEL AVIV: IDF warplanes struck over 100 targets across Gaza in a night of strikes after two rockets were fired towards central Israel by Hamas. The strikes came after an urgent late-night consultation between PM Benjamin Netanyahu and his defense chiefs in Tel Aviv. "Decisions were taken," an Israeli official said without elaborating. On Friday morning 15 March 2019, an IDF spokesman said that over 100 Hamas targets were hit in response to the fire on Tel Aviv; air strikes went on throughout the night. The targets included the headquarters responsible for the planning and execution of terror attacks in Judea & Samaria, an underground complex that served as Hamas' main rocket-manufacturing site, and a military training site that served the group's drone program. Several underground infrastructures and military compounds were also struck, including naval sites. Palestinian media in Gaza said that Israeli naval vessels took part in the strikes. During the airstrikes, nine projectiles were launched at Israeli communities bordering Gaza, with six being intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system, and another fell inside Gaza. While shrapnel was discovered outside a school in the city of Sderot, there were no reports of injuries or damage.

POLITICIANS WARN GAZA'S TERROR ORGANIZATIONS AFTER ROCKETS FIRED AT TEL AVIV: Politicians from Israel and abroad warned Gaza's terrorist organizations after two rockets were fired Thur. night at Tel Aviv. USA President Donald Trump's special envoy to the Middle East, Jason Greenblatt, wrote on Twitter shortly after the event. "Hamas violently suppresses its own people demonstrating against Hamas' rule & failures and NOW fires rockets at cities in Israel. OUTRAGEOUS! This is what prevents the world from helping the people of Gaza! We strongly support Israel in defense of its citizens. Always!" Naftali Bennett, co-chairman of the New Right Party, told Israel's Channel 12 that the time has come to "deal with" the terror organizations. Benny Gantz, chairman of the Blue and White Party and ex-IDF chief, said the rockets require a "serious" response. In a statement, he said the "time has come to deal with Hamas and eliminate its head," calling on PM Netanyahu to authorize the IDF to begin a program to "cut off Hamas."

"The rocket fired tonight is a severe event," said Blue and White politician Moshe Ya'alon. "It joins a routine of terrorism which is unacceptable and directed mainly to Gaza border communities." He further said he trusts the IDF and those who lead it to know how to react and "collect a price for any sort of breach of sovereignty." Cities across central Israel told residents they were in constant communication with security forces, including Ramat Gan, Bnei Brak, Givatayim, Petach Tikva and others. Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon, a member of the security cabinet, said that the "serious" incident will result in an "appropriate response." Eli Yishai, chairman of the Yachad Party, said in a statement that Netanyahu and the security cabinet must "wake up" to the danger at hand. Avigdor Liberman, chairman of the Yisrael Beytenu Party, called on Israel to "return to the policy of punishing those responsible." Oren Hazan, an ex-Likud member said that "it should not be that Israel" capitulates to "terror organizations," while the Union of Right-Wing Parties (URP) called on Israel to back up what it says about terror organizations with "actions" and "return security to the State of Israel."

BENNETT: TIME TO DEFEAT HAMAS ONCE AND FOR ALL: New Right Chairman Naftali Bennett responded to the rocket attack on Tel Aviv Thur. evening 14 March 2019. "No matter who is behind the shooting tonight, Hamas bears responsibility," Bennett said. "In the past year, I have been saying clearly: Those who allow the launching of incendiary kites will receive missiles. And anyone who does not stop missiles on Sderot will receive missiles on Tel Aviv. The time has come to defeat Hamas once and for all. No more shooting at dunes without harming the enemy, but an uncompromising pursuit and systematic liquidation of Hamas leaders. "I call upon the prime minister to order the IDF to present the cabinet with a plan to defeat Hamas," he said.

DANON: UN MUST RECOGNIZE HAMAS AS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION: Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations (UN) Danny Danon on Friday 15 March 2019 demanded the UN condemn Gaza's rocket attacks on Israel and recognize Hamas as a terror organization. "From within a civilian population which serves as a human shield, Hamas is firing at Israeli civilians and therefore committing a double war crime," Danon said. "Israel will take any action necessary in order to protect its citizens and ensure its security. A terror organization which attempts to harm Israeli citizens will need to encounter uncompromising strength, which will not rest." Danon emphasized, "Any other country in the world would not hesitate to act for the sake of its citizens' security, and therefore there is no reason to hold a double standard when it comes to Israel."

POMPEO: ISRAEL HAS THE RIGHT TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS: USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday 15 March 2019 expressed support for Israel's right to defend itself after the rocket fire on Tel Aviv. "Once again, Israeli citizens are under attack from terrorists in Gaza, armed and financed by their puppet masters in Tehran," he tweeted. "We stand by our ally. Israel has the right to protect its citizens," added Pompeo. USA Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) likewise condemned the rocket fire from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip toward Gush Dan. "The Iran-backed terror group Hamas is responsible for the unceasing attacks on Israeli civilians launched from the Gaza Strip, which the group rules and controls," Cruz said in a statement. "Our Israeli allies have an absolute right to self-defense, and the United States should do whatever possible to bolster that defense. Many of the rocket and missile attacks on Israel are double war crimes, launched at Israeli civilians from behind Palestinian civilians." Jason Greenblatt, the USA Special Representative for International Negotiations, condemned the attack as well. "Hamas violently suppresses its own people demonstrating against Hamas' rule and failures and NOW fires rockets at cities in Israel. OUTRAGEOUS! Hamas and other terror organizations in Gaza continue to fail their people day after day & drag Gaza further & further down by constantly choosing violence. This method will never work. Ever! It will just continue to cause more suffering," added Greenblatt.

PRO-HEZBOLLAH AND IRAN MEDIA CELEBRATE ROCKETS OVER TEL AVIV: Pro-Hezbollah and pro-Iran regime media and social media accounts lit up on Thur. night, 14 March 2019 after two rockets were fired at Tel Aviv from Gaza. Lebanon's satellite TV station Al-Mayadeen, which is supportive of the Syrian regime and Hezbollah, wrote a story within minutes of the reports of Iron Dome being activated. Relying on Israel's Channel 12, the article noted that booms were heard in central Israel and that bomb shelters were to be opened. Similarly, the Tasnim News Agency in Iran wrote an article noting that Iron Dome had intercepted the rockets. Shehab News, which is supportive of Hamas, posted a video and news on the rocket fire. Hezbollah's Al-Manar also reported the rocket fire. Hossein Dalirian, director of defense coverage for Tansim News, tweeted that two Fajr-5 rockets were fired at Tel Aviv. He specified the Fajr-5 was developed by Iran and supplied to Islamic Jihad in Gaza. Palestinian media, relying on Israeli reports, pointed to Islamic Jihad as a culprit. With the Israeli elections approaching, there are concerns about Iranian meddling. Islamic Jihad is close to Iran and fired rockets last year at Israel during tensions. Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei said on Thur. 14 March, 2019 that Iran must "mobilize all its resources" against external enemies: "the USA and the Zionists."

3,000 ROCK ATTACKS IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA IN ONE YEAR: The Lavi civil rights organization revealed on Thur. evening 14 March 2019 data regarding rock and firebomb-throwing attacks in Judea and Samaria in 2018. According to the data, in 2018, there were 2,847 rock-throwing incidents and 338 firebomb-throwing incidents in Judea and Samaria. These numbers only reflect incidents that were reported to the police and for which cases were opened. According to the police's response, despite the alarming data and the huge scope of the phenomenon, the Israel Police does not have a procedure for gathering evidence from the scene of the attacks, nor is there a procedure for obtaining forensic identification for the terrorist attacks, which significantly reduces the interpretation of events and arrests of suspects. "We were amazed to discover that the Israel Police has no procedure for collecting forensic findings from rock-throwing and firebomb-throwing incidents on the roads of Judea and Samaria," said the Lavi organization. "This is a widespread and murderous phenomenon that harms Jews traveling on the roads of Judea and Samaria on a daily basis. The police are expected to use their capabilities and collect forensic findings from the crime scenes in order to enable the perpetrators to be brought to justice," the organization added.

LIGHTS IN TEL AVIV SIDEWALK TO PROTECT 'SMARTPHONE ZOMBIES': According to a USA Governors Highway Safety Association published last year, one of the key factors behind the record increase in pedestrian casualties across the country was "the dramatic growth in smartphone use." Seeking to avoid such casualties, the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality joined this week a growing list of cities around the world installing LED ground-level lights at pedestrian crossings, designed to warn texting pedestrians that they are about to cross the road. The new lights, part of a municipality trial, are connected to traffic lights on the city's major Ibn Gvirol Road, opposite the municipality building. The LED floor lighting changes color at the same time as regular eye-level lights. Similar lights have already been installed in a number of European cities, as well as in Singapore and Australia. In Germany, the word "smombie," a fusion of "smartphone" and "zombie" was chosen as the country's official "Youth Word" in 2015.

NVIDIA BUYS ISRAELI'S MELLANOX FOR 6.8 BILLION: USA chipmaker Nvidia Corp. said on Mon.11 March 2019 that it will buy Israeli chip designer Mellanox Technologies Ltd. for \$6.8 billion. Mellanox, based in Israel and the USA makes chips and other hardware for data center servers that power cloud computing.

HAMAS READYING FOR ISRAELI ATTACK: The Arab Al-Hadaf news site this week reported that a senior Hamas source exposed the terror organization's intensified activities. These proceedings, the source said, are intended to foil an "extensive Israeli operation" in Gaza, expected to take place before the 9 April 2019 Israeli elections. The site quoted a Hamas official as saying that despite Egypt's efforts to broker peace, Hamas is preparing for an escalation with Israel, and Israel has intensified its activities in Gaza. Hamas leaders have also changed the guidelines for the military wing in an attempt to prevent agents from operating within Gaza. The new guidelines demand terror activists avoid receiving any type of gifts from those who they do not know, avoid walking or driving alone at night and completely avoid smartphones which have not been inspected. "Israel is liable to use something happening in the field, such as the firing of a rocket, in order to begin an unprecedented aerial attack on opposition sites and leaders around Gaza," the source said. The report also disclosed that several people were arrested on suspicion of being Israeli agents and that the terror organizations have been concerned that a network of locals has aided the IDF in infiltrating Gaza.

CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF BDS TO BE HELD IN RAMALLAH: The national and Islamic forces, the supreme coordinating body of the Palestinian Arab organizations, this week called for continued support of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel in view of the "impressive successes" achieved by the boycott movement. In a statement issued in Ramallah, the national and Islamic forces called for broad participation in a national conference in support of BDS which will be held at the Palestinian Red Cross headquarters in Ramallah on 16 March 2019. The conference, according to the

statement, aims to formulate a comprehensive national strategy for BDS and emphasize the importance of bringing the “occupation” to justice. According to the statement, the fight to protect the Al-Aqsa Mosque will continue, including the struggle over the Golden Gate. *(The Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions (BDS) movement seeks to cut economic ties with Israel, Since its beginnings over a decade ago, BDS has never been invoked against any other country. Common sense and decency asks how any movement can single-out the only democracy in the region while ignoring the brutal treatment of women and minorities in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Pakistan. Almost everything the Nazis said about the Jews is said today by BDS supporters regarding Israel. There is a worldwide struggle against the very existence of one country of all countries in the world. Not North Korea. Not Iran. Not Sudan. Only Israel. Intercede against the BDS movement that seeks to further hatred against the Jewish state and to undermine Israel’s economy.)*

NETANYAHU RESPONDS TO ERDOGAN’S CRITICISM: 'WHAT A JOKE': In a post on Twitter, PM Benjamin Netanyahu responded to Turkish President Erdogan's comments that Israel being a Jewish state "is blatant racism". "Turkey’s dictator Erdogan attacks Israel’s democracy while Turkish journalists and judges fill his prisons. What a joke!" Netanyahu wrote. "In Israel, no one is a second-class citizen. Israel is a democracy in which all Israelis, including our nearly 2 million Arab citizens, enjoy equal individual rights." He added, "But Israel is also the one and only Jewish state, with a Star of David on our flag, Hatikvah our national anthem, Hebrew our official language and where a Law of Return gives every Jew around the world the right to return to our ancestral homeland," Netanyahu finished.

MAP OF PALESTINE DISPLACING ISRAEL SHOWN AT ATLANTA SCHOOL’S MULTICULTURAL NIGHT: A map that shows Palestine in place of present-day Israel was displayed during a multicultural night at a suburban Atlanta middle school. The map was placed on a table dedicated to Palestinian culture at the annual event at the Autrey Mill Middle School in Alpharetta. There was no contextual information displayed with the map, which did not mention Israel. “I am extremely disappointed and disgusted with the individuals who presented an insensitive political and geographic representation,” the school’s principal, Trey Martin, wrote in a letter to parents. “This display does not represent our school culture, which is one that values inclusion and unity,” Martin noted that more than 500 people and 15 countries were represented at the event last week. “We condemn this attempt to use our Multicultural Night for one’s own political or religious agenda,” he wrote. The middle school is located near several synagogues and a community Chabad building. Fulton County Schools said an investigation is taking place. *(Children in USA schools should be taught the internationally accepted conditions for statehood. These include unified territory, capability of responsible governance and readiness to abide by international obligations. With Gaza controlled by Hamas/Iran, and Judea and Samaria by Fatah that continues to promote and glorify terrorism – and with the Gaza-based terror groups indiscriminately lobbing rockets into Israel's towns and conducting ongoing violent demonstrations against the Jewish state, the Palestinians have a long way to go until they fulfill these requirements.)*

ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS ON THE RISE IN THE NETHERLANDS: The Netherlands in 2018 saw a major increase in recorded anti-Semitic incidents, which totaled a record 230 cases. Of that tally, the Center for Information and Documentation, which is Dutch Jewry’s watchdog group, recorded last year 135 real-life incidents that did not occur online, the group said in its annual report published this week. That number represents a 19% increase over the 113 real-life incidents reported in 2017. Incidents that occurred in the victim’s direct environment increased from 24 in 2017 to 40 last year. In one incident in June 2018, a teenager was violently removed from a nightclub in Vlaardingen by security after inspecting his identity card, carrying a distinctly Jewish name. In another, a man waiting for the metro in February 2018 was approached by another man who told him: “God will kill you.”

MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR HOLOCAUST MUSEUM OPENS IN MACEDONIA: The capital of this Balkan nation of 2 million people saw the dedication of a multi-million-dollar Holocaust museum that has

been called one of the finest institutions of its kind. Macedonia, the landlocked country north of Greece, had a Jewish population of about 8,000 before the Holocaust, “and more than 98% of them were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators,” said Michael Berenbaum, a former director of the United States Holocaust Museum’s research institute. That’s part of the reason that an institution of the magnitude of the new museum, which according to Macedonian media cost \$23 million to build, is “appropriate” in Skopje, he said. The museum, a three-story building located in the Macedonian capital’s museum quarter, includes unique displays such as hundreds of suitcases dangling from the ceiling, a transport wagon similar to ones used to transport the Macedonian Jews to be murdered, and a tank engine of the kind used to produce deadly gas for the gas chamber of Treblinka, where Macedonian Jews were killed. The funding came from restitution money paid by the government to the local Jewish community, which is now comprised of about 200 members.



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