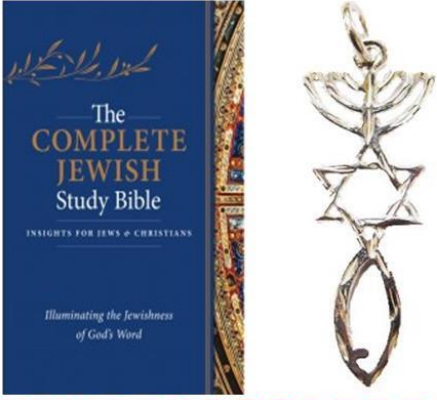


Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update May 2, 2019 (27th Nisan, 5779)

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FROM HAMAS ROCKETS IN SDEROT TO ANTI-SEMITIC GUNMEN IN CALIFORNIA: The Dahan family emigrated to America after suffering for years under Hamas rocket fire, only to nearly lose their daughter at the hands of a rabidly anti-Semitic gunman. The California synagogue that was shot up by a 19-year-old white supremacist on Saturday 27 April 2019 had a large number of Israeli congregants. An American-Jewish woman was tragically killed, and the local rabbi and two Israeli congregants were wounded. Among them was 8-year-old Noya Dahan, whose face and leg was hit by shrapnel. The girl's family had originally lived in Sderot, where they came under regular Hamas rocket fire from the nearby Gaza Strip. Noya's father, Israel Dahan, told Israel Radio that their house in Sderot had been hit several times and that he had been wounded in a terrorist rocket attack. That situation had prompted the family to leave Israel for California several years ago. But on Saturday, the family realized that they had "come from fire to fire," Dahan told Israel Radio. "It can happen anywhere." Also wounded was Noya's uncle, Almog Peretz, who had likewise left Sderot for the perceived safety of California.

Speaking to Israel Channel 12 News, Peretz recalled, "A person with a big rifle entered the synagogue and started shooting everywhere. At first, we thought the ceiling had collapsed, but then I turned around and saw he was aiming his weapon at me. There were many small kids next to me. I took a little girl who was our neighbor and three nieces of mine and ran. I opened the back door and we ran with all the children to a building in the back. I hid them in that building. As I picked up the girl, the terrorist aimed his weapon at me. I was injured in the leg." Both Noya and her uncle Almog are in stable condition.

SUSPECT'S MANIFESTO: JEWS DESERVE HELL. I WILL SEND THEM THERE: The Poway Sheriff's Department has identified the suspect in the shooting at the local synagogue as John Earnest, a far-right activist who allegedly posted a manifesto shortly before the attack occurred and may have been involved in another hate crime. About twenty minutes before the attack, a Twitter user reported that a manifesto had been published on a site popularly used by the far-right and was worried that a mass

shooting was imminent. It contained common far-right catchphrases, including descriptions of an "international Jewry" which is responsible for countless age-old blood libels, including alleged control over the media and the economy. This is similar to a trope in the anti-Semitic pamphlet, "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion". Within the post, he wrote, "Every Jew young and old has contributed to these. For these crimes, they deserve nothing but hell. I will send them there." He also stated that he hoped to inspire others to commit similar crimes to his and that he expected to be freed from prison and "continue the fight."

PM: AN ATTACK ON THE HEART OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE: PM Binyamin Netanyahu has condemned the deadly shooting attack at a California synagogue. "I condemn the abhorrent attack on a synagogue in California; this is an attack on the heart of the Jewish people. We send condolences to the family of Lori Gilbert-Kaye and our best wishes for a quick recovery to the wounded. The international community must step up the struggle against anti-Semitism," Netanyahu said. In light of the upsurge in anti-Semitic attacks around the world, PM Netanyahu will, this week, convene a special discussion of all elements dealing with the issue. "Checked the news tonight after celebrating Passover; heartbroken to discover the horrible news about the deadly attack at a synagogue in Poway. We must gather together & fight the scourge of anti-Semitism. My thoughts & prayers are with the families of all those affected," he said.

TRUMP CONDEMNS ANTI-SEMITISM FOLLOWING SYNAGOGUE SHOOTING: President Donald Trump on Saturday 27 April 2019 said the country stood in solidarity with the Jewish community after a gunman opened fire at a synagogue in California, killing one and injuring three. "Tonight, America's heart is with the victims of the horrific synagogue shooting in California. Our entire nation mourns the loss of life, prays for the wounded and stands in solidarity with the Jewish community. We forcefully condemn the evil of anti-Semitism and hate which must be defeated." USA Vice President Mike Pence, also on Saturday night, condemned the shooting attack at a synagogue near San Diego. "We condemn in the strongest terms the evil & cowardly shooting at Chabad of Poway today as Jewish families celebrated Passover. No one should be in fear in a house of worship. Anti-Semitism isn't just wrong - it's evil," he tweeted."

OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT, CONCERN AFTER CALIFORNIA SYNAGOGUE ATTACK: Sympathy poured in from around the world in response to a shooting attack in a Poway California synagogue on Saturday 27 April 2019. "The words, the demonstrators and the cartoons turn into shootings against worshipers in synagogues," said Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon in response to the attack. "Anti-Semitism continues to raise its head and take victims. This is the time for action, for a determined war and not for weak and hollow condemnations that allow the forces of hate to revive dark periods in history." The ambassador was referencing an anti-Semitic cartoon recently published by The New York Times.

"I am following with deep concern the tragic events in Poway, California, as once again Jewish blood has been spilled on one of our holiest days, in a place of prayer," said Diaspora Affairs Minister Naftali Bennett. "And even in the face of this terror and hatred, once again we are hearing reports of amazing bravery as the rabbi of the community - who was himself injured - sought to defend his congregants from the vicious shooter. Let all who wish the Jewish people harm understand: We are a strong people and we are a united people and we will never be defeated by hatred. The people of Israel stand side by side with our brothers and sisters in America, and with all the American people against this and all forms of terror."

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR: NEW YORK TIMES A 'CESSPOOL OF HOSTILITY': The Israeli ambassador to the United States, Ron Dermer, on Mon. 29 April 2019 criticized The New York Times newspaper and linked it to the "Jew-hatred of growing parts of the intellectual class". His remarks were posted on his Facebook page. Dermer attributed the Poway attack last weekend, which killed one congregant and injured three, and the October 2018 massacre at a Pittsburgh synagogue that killed 11 worshipers, to white supremacists. But he also added that "we have also seen anti-Semitism increasingly poison minds in the political classes of what once proudly called itself the West. We have also seen one of the world's most prestigious newspapers become a cesspool of hostility towards Israel that goes well beyond any legitimate

criticism of a fellow, imperfect democracy,” Dermer said as he discussed The New York Times. “The same New York Times that a century ago mostly hid from their readers the Holocaust of the Jewish people has today made its pages a safe space for those who hate the Jewish state. Through biased coverage, slanderous columns and anti-Semitic cartoons, its editors shamefully choose week after week to cast the Jewish state as a force for evil,” he continued. The comments come after the newspaper published a cartoon in which PM Binyamin Netanyahu is shown as a guide dog for a blind USA President Donald Trump. In the cartoon, Trump is shown wearing a kippah and Netanyahu's collar features a blue Star of David. The cartoon was widely condemned on Saturday 27 April 2019.

‘NO FUTURE FOR JEWS IN GERMANY,’ SAYS JEWISH TEENAGER: The large German broadsheet newspaper Die Welt published online Saturday 27 April 2019: “Why young Jews are leaving Germany.” According to the Die Welt, 50 young German Jews left Germany in 2018 to enroll in the Israeli government-sponsored Naale program. Young Diaspora Jews can apply to be accepted into a high school program organized by the Naale scholarship program, with a view toward aliyah. The 15-year-old Golda Maertens, who has been accepted to Naale, told Welt reporter Philip Kuhn “I also think that there is no future for Jews” in Germany. “I want to go to a boarding school like my brother in Israel. I already visited him and he is doing well there.” In 2016, a student of Arab origin reportedly said during a discussion of the Middle East conflict in a class in Berlin: “If there is a Jewish student in the class, I would kill him.” “I’m totally afraid of Muslim anti-Semitism,” said Maertens’s mother, Evelyn. “I cannot judge how bad this will become.” According to Welt, Maertens’s aunt in Tel Aviv has repeatedly urged the mother and daughter to move to Israel because it is no longer safe in Germany. The spokesman for Hamburg’s Jewish community, Daniel Killy, said deteriorating security in Germany has led to a highly dangerous situation for Jews. “No, we are no longer safe here,” Killy said. He said the disintegration of state power, excesses of the extreme right-wing, the loss of political credibility, and “the terrible fear of naming Islamism as such” have contributed to an insecure environment for Jews. Hamburg’s Jewish community has nearly 2,500 members. Just under 100,000 Jews are registered with the Central Council of Jews in Germany. Germany has absorbed more than one million refugees from mainly Muslim-majority countries

POMPEO CONDEMNS RISE OF ANTI-SEMITISM, BLASTS BRITAIN’S LABOUR PARTY: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last week condemned the rise of anti-Semitism as a “cancer metastasizing” in the Middle East, Europe and in the United States, where he said the Trump administration would vigorously oppose it. In a speech in Washington, Pompeo accused Britain’s opposition Labour Party of tolerating anti-Semitism, calling it a “national disgrace”. He said attacks against Jews were increasing in France and Germany and hate crimes against Jews in the United States were up by one third in 2017. He slammed the “multiple attacks” on the Orthodox Jewish community in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. Speaking to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee conference, Pompeo said anti-Zionism - opposition to the existence of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people - was a form of anti-Semitism that was on the rise. “The Trump administration opposes it unequivocally and we will fight it relentlessly,” he said, “Anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism.”

750,000 PEOPLE VISIT WESTERN WALL DURING PASSOVER: More than 750,000 people visited the Western Wall since the start of the Passover holiday. On average, over 100,000 people visited the site each day. The amount of visitors is larger than in previous years. Mon. 22 April 2019 was particularly crowded as pilgrims made their way to the Wall to attend the Priestly Blessing prayer service, which takes place twice a year on Passover and Sukkot. The Blessing is a tradition dating from the time of the Second Temple, when priests would bless all of the Jewish people.

TENS OF THOUSANDS VISIT NATIONAL PARKS ON SECOND PASSOVER: Tens of thousands of Israelis took advantage of fair weather on Friday 26 April 2019, Pesach Sheni (or the Second Passover holiday), to visit the country’s nature reserves and national parks. The Israel Nature and Parks Authority

estimated that around 80,000 people had visited by noon. Popular locations included the Yarkon National Park east of Tel Aviv; the Ashkelon National Park; Gan HaShlosha, and the Banias Nature Reserve in the north; and Massada and Ein Gedi in the south. Thousands of people were also enjoying the beaches of the Sea of Galilee. Authorities said several parks and beaches had been closed to further visitors due to the large numbers.

TWO JEWISH SIBLINGS AMONG VICTIMS OF SRI LANKA ATTACKS: Two Jewish siblings, Amelie, and Daniel Linsey, were among those killed in the Easter Sunday terror attacks in Sri Lanka. "While the intended targets of this atrocity were clearly meant to be Christian, the terrorists' bombs did not discriminate," said Lord Leigh of Hurley, president of the synagogue where the Linsey's prayed. "The Linsey family were members of my synagogue they shared the same classes as my children. The siblings were two of eight Brits killed in the attacks. We have pledged as a community to offer our love and support to the Linsey family and do everything we can every step of the way," said Leigh. Leigh requested that the government "double its efforts to ensure that the bodies of the siblings are returned as soon as possible."

ALL CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES IN SRI LANKA CANCELED: All Catholic Sunday Masses in Sri Lanka have been suspended until further notice following last week's massacre — where two of the bombings took place at Catholic churches, church leadership announced Friday 26 April 2019. Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo, told reporters that church officials obtained a leaked security document that named churches — both Catholic and of other denominations — as major targets for attackers, according to Vatican News. He insisted that the faithful stay at home, for their own safety, according to the report. "We don't want repetitions," Ranjith said. In last week's attacks, the suicide bombers also targeted one evangelical church and four hotels.

NEPAL DEPORTS USA CITIZEN, ARRESTS FOUR ON ALLEGATIONS OF CONVERTING PEOPLE TO CHRISTIANITY: Nepalese authorities arrested four people last week and deported a USA citizen on allegations of illegally converting people to Christianity by "allurement," sparking outcry from Christian advocates. Police officers arrested two men and two women, one of whom is a resident of Colorado, around 8 a.m. Tue. 23 April 2019, a day after the group of four attended a conference for pastors with 70 others at a local church, according to Christian Solidarity Worldwide. Police have not officially levied criminal charges against the four but have accused them of trying to convert locals to Christianity. Nepal instituted anti-conversion laws in August 2018, which raised concerns with the USA State Department as USA officials see potential for the law to be used to restrict religious freedoms. Those convicted of proselytizing or converting others to another religion face a penalty of up to five years in prison. The American citizen, identified as Oleana Cinquanta, argued the allegations of attempted conversion are false. She claimed that Nepalese authorities deported her to the USA.

UN SAYS 3RD HEZBOLLAH TUNNEL CROSSED INTO ISRAEL: A UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon last week said a tunnel discovered earlier this year by Israel had crossed the Lebanese-Israeli border, in the third such breach of a ceasefire resolution. Israel in Jan. 2019 accused Lebanese Shiite terrorist organization Hezbollah of having dug what it described as the deepest, "longest and most detailed" tunnel it had discovered. The Israeli army said the tunnel from the Lebanese town of Ramyeh -- just 800 yards from the border -- reached a few dozen yards into Israel, and descended to 55 yards underground. "UNIFIL's independent assessment confirms that this tunnel crosses the blue line in violation of resolution 1701", which ended the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah. UNIFIL has informed the Lebanese authorities about the violation and has requested urgent follow-up actions. Lebanon and Israel are still technically at war. Israel is currently building a wall along the 80-mile frontier to block Hezbollah attempts to infiltrate. Since early Dec. 2019, Israel has said it discovered six tunnels, destroying them either with explosives or by filling them with a cement-like material. Israel accuses Hezbollah had planned to use the tunnels to kidnap or kill its civilians or soldiers, and to seize Israeli territory in the event of any hostilities. The United States has designated

Hezbollah a "terrorist" group since 1997. The USA last week offered a \$10 million reward for information that would disrupt the group's finances.

ZOA CALLS TO REMOVE RASHIDA TLAIB FROM DEMOCRATIC PARTY: The Zionist Organization of America is calling on pro-Israel organizations and “decent Americans” to urge the removal of Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) from the Democratic Party and Congressional committees. “Someone who knowingly and enthusiastically consorts with the most virulent anti-Semites, blood-soaked terrorists, and conspiracy theorists is clearly beyond the pale, or no one is beyond the pale,” wrote ZOA National President Morton A. Klein and Chairman Mark Levenson. ZOA based its claims partially on a video published late last month by the Israel Advocacy Movement, which unpacked the individuals that Tlaib thanked for helping her to get into office. Among those individuals are close associates of Palestinians terrorists with Jewish blood on their hands. For example, Tlaib is seen posing with Rasmia Odeh, a former member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine who was convicted by Israeli military courts for her role in the murder of two students, Leon Kanner, and Eddie Joffe in the 1969 Jerusalem Supermarket bombing. Tlaib has shared photos of Mohammed Ali, a Palestinian terrorist who stabbed three Israeli soldiers in Jerusalem in an incident that was captured on video. And she has shared praise for Imad Mughniyeh, the Hezbollah terrorist responsible for the murder of 242 United States servicemen in a 1982 suicide bombing in Lebanon against USA forces stationed there on an UN-sanctioned peace-keeping mission.

The ZOA also noted how on Tlaib's first day in office, she took a sticky note with the word "Palestine" on it and placed it with an arrow pointing at Israel, thereby indicating her support for the Palestinian Arab objective of eliminating and replacing the Jewish state of Israel. “The ZOA calls upon all pro-Israel organizations, Jewish and non-Jewish, and all decent Americans to urge Rep. Tlaib’s removal from the Democratic Party and Congressional committees,” wrote Klein and Levenson. “A terrible precedent will have been set if someone so obviously tainted with the most pernicious hatreds and associations does not inspire the party to which she belongs to expel her. In that case, the unmistakable message will have been sent that associating with vicious anti-Semites and terrorist shedders of innocent blood is no impediment to political office in the United States of America,” the message continued.

AIPAC PUSHES BACK AS BERNIE SANDERS CALLS ISRAELI GOV'T ‘RACIST’: The American Israel Public Affairs Committee pushed back against Sen. Bernie Sanders for calling Binyamin Netanyahu’s government “racist.” The pro-Israel lobby, in a tweet that did not mention the Democratic presidential hopeful by name, said it was counterproductive when American leaders used “name-calling” against their Israeli counterparts. “The USA-Israel alliance serves America’s interests,” AIPAC said on Twitter. “We benefit from the close bonds between the governments and peoples. Name-calling by political leaders against the democratically elected government of Israel is counterproductive to maintaining close ties and advancing peace.” An AIPAC official confirmed that the tweet was aimed at Sanders, currently the front-runner in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. Sanders defended his outspoken criticism of Israel in a town hall broadcast from Manchester, New Hampshire, the first primary state. “The goal must be to try to bring people together and not just support one country, which is now run by a right-wing — dare I say — racist government,” he said to applause.

ATTACKS ON CHRISTIANS DOUBLE SINCE 2017: Violence against Christians — like the bomb attacks that killed hundreds of people in Catholic churches and hotels in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday — has been escalating steadily over the past few years. Open Doors USA, a mission for persecuted Christians estimates that violent attacks on the faithful doubled from 2017 to 2018, with approximately 11 Christians dying every day for their faith. “There’s a specific pattern of violence around Christian holy days, such as Easter and Christmas,” said Sarah Cunningham, senior director of communications for Open Doors USA. Nearly 50 worshipers were killed on Palm Sunday 2017 by bombers who targeted Coptic Christians in Cairo. That same year, at Bethel Memorial Methodist Church in Quetta, Pakistan, nine Christians were killed a week before Christmas by suicide bombers linked to ISIS. Whereas international organizers tracking attacks against

Christians a generation ago concentrated on the officially atheistic Soviet Union, today the focus is on terrorist and extremist Muslim factions.

“Militant [terrorist] Islamic camps are definitely one of the primary sources of Christian persecution in these countries,” said Cunningham, noting that Christians are being targeted beyond the former borders of the now-scattered ISIS terrorists in Iraq and Syria. Sunday’s 21 April 2019 attacks occurred in largely Buddhist Sri Lanka, where the percentage of Muslims and Christians is in the single digits. News reports suggest that Sri Lankan authorities were slow to respond to growing threats against Christians, who account for less than 8% of the nation’s 23 million people. “Often these nations lack the resources or the desire to confront persecution against Christians,” Cunningham said. Open Doors USA said 4,136 Christians have been killed for their faith since 2018 and 1,200 churches or Christian buildings have been destroyed. In countries where parishioners face violence for their Christian faith, churches have gone underground or into forests, caves, and fields. Parishioners are encouraged to congregate in small groups to private homes to avoid suspicion.

A QUESTION TRUMP ASKS WORLD LEADERS IN THE OVAL OFFICE WILL MAKE CHRISTIANS CHEER: Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney revealed at The National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., this week that President Donald Trump outright asks world leaders what they do to protect Christians in their countries. Mulvaney noted that during the past two and a half years Trump has spent a great deal of time on the mistreatment of Christians and other religious minorities internationally. “What you don’t know about is what goes on behind closed doors,” Mulvaney said. “I very rarely talk about my private meetings with the president, but I can assure you that I have been sitting with him in the Oval Office, with leaders from around the world, where he will look at them and say ‘Now, you’re not doing enough to take care of the Christians in your country,’ or, ‘Thank you for helping Christians in your country.’ I won’t lie to you, that’s pretty powerful stuff.” Mulvaney said that to be present during these meetings and to be part of such discussion has been invigorating. “It hasn’t been articulated in the Oval Office in way too long,” the Chief of Staff said.

DEATH TOLL IN SRI LANKA EASTER BOMBINGS RISES TO 359: The number of people killed in a string of bombings on Easter Sunday earlier this week has risen to 359, police in Sri Lanka have reported. Seven suicide bombers hit hotels and churches in a wave of attacks Sunday 21 April 2019 coinciding with the Easter holiday. Along with the 359 people dead, some 500 victims were injured in the bombings. On Tue. 23 April 2019, the ISIS terror organization claimed responsibility for the attacks. Previously, authorities believed that the National Thowheeth Jama’at (NTJ), a Sri Lankan Islamist movement, was responsible for orchestrating the Easter Sunday attacks. However, a government spokesman had emphasized that NTJ was small and would have required "international support" to carry out such a complex attack.

ISIS PUBLISHES PHOTO, NAMES OF SRI LANKA TERRORISTS: The ISIS terrorist organization released a photograph of seven of the terrorists behind the deadly Easter bombings in Sri Lanka shortly after claiming responsibility for the attacks that left 351 people dead and 500 people injured. A statement issued by the organization details the names of the seven terrorists who carried out the attack and including a photograph in which the terrorists appeared in masks. Sri Lankan PM Raniel Wickremasinghe warned that there is a possibility more attacks will be carried out in the country, adding that there are more explosive devices and other terrorists in the country.

TRUMP SQUEEZES IRAN’S OIL EXPORTS: USA President Donald Trump has decided not to renew the exemption from sanctions on Iranian oil imports granted to several countries. The aim of the decision is to reduce the export of Iranian oil to zero, thus preventing from the Ayatollah’s regime its main source of income. "The United States, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, the three largest energy producers in the world, together with our friends and allies, are committed to ensuring the world's oil markets receive all supplies, including the deficit created by the non-use of Iranian oil. The Trump administration and its allies are determined to continue and expand the campaign of economic pressure on Iran to put an end to the

destabilizing activities of the regime, which is a threat to the United States, its partners, and its allies in the Middle East," the statement said. The White House also noted that "the President's decision is a direct continuation of the decision to declare Iran's Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist organization, a further step that demonstrates USA commitment to eliminate the Iranian terror network and to change the regime's behavior in the country.

USA OFFERS \$10M FOR FINANCIAL DISRUPTION TO HEZBOLLAH: The USA government earlier this week offered a \$10 million reward for information leading to a financial disruption of the Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah. USA Treasury Department official Marshall Billingslea said Washington, D.C., wants to "hit Hezbollah in the wallet." Hezbollah, which the United States considers a terror organization, has sent fighters to Syria to support President Bashar al-Assad, and has had growing influence in Lebanon's government. Hezbollah is heavily backed by Iran. The State Department said it would pay the reward for information about Hezbollah's sources of revenue, any major donors, financial institutions facilitating transactions, businesses owed by the group, front companies or other criminal schemes. "This includes specifically information on corporation and shareholder documents," Billingslea said. "We will pay for bank records, customs forms, real estate transactions and anything evidencing money laundering or cash smuggling." The reward will be paid through the State Department's Rewards for Justice Program.

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU WANTS TO NAME TOWN IN ISRAEL AFTER PRESIDENT TRUMP: Israel PM Netanyahu said this week that he will introduce a resolution to name a town in the Golan Heights after President Donald Trump. The Trump administration officially recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights earlier this month, after the international community had previously spent decades refusing to recognize the country's authority over the land. "All Israelis were deeply moved when President Trump made his historic decision to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights," Netanyahu said. "Therefore, after the Passover holiday, I intend to bring to the government a resolution calling for a new community on the Golan Heights named after President Donald J. Trump." Last year, Trump fulfilled his campaign promise to move the USA embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to its capital in Jerusalem. Around the same time, Trump also made the decision to pull the USA out of the Iran Nuclear Deal, a pact which Netanyahu had claimed was based on lies.



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