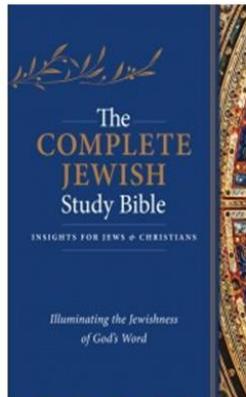


Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update May 9, 2019 ***(4th Lyyar, 5779)***

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ISRAELI POPULATION TO SOAR TO 15.2 MILLION BY 100TH ANNIVERSARY: Israel's population is expected to soar to 15.2 million by the time the state celebrates its centenary in 2048, according to data published by the Central Bureau of Statistics ahead of the country's 71st Independence Day. A mere 806,000 citizens resided in the State of Israel when David Ben-Gurion declared independence on 14 May 1948. Today, 9.021 million people call Israel home, an increase of 177,000 or 2% since last year's Independence Day celebrations. During that time, 188,000 babies were born, 31,000 immigrants arrived and 47,000 Israelis died. Some 6.697 million (74.2%) of Israel's population are Jewish, and a further 1.89 million (20.9%) are Arabs. Approximately 45% of the world's Jewish population currently lives in Israel. A further 434,000 citizens (4.8%) are of different faiths or origins. Since the establishment of the state, 3.2 million immigrants have received Israeli citizenship. Average life expectancy for Israeli men stands at 80.7 years and for women at 84.6 years. Some 48,000 Israeli citizens are 90 years old or older. An impressive 88.9% of Israelis are said to be satisfied with their lives. During the past year, a record 4.4 million tourists and business people entered Israel, and 8.5 million Israeli went abroad.

ON INDEPENDENCE DAY EVE, 82% OF ISRAELIS HAPPY WITH COUNTRY'S ACHIEVEMENTS: Some 82% of Israelis say the country's achievements outweigh its failures, according to a report by the Israel Democracy Institute. Released Monday 6 May 2019 on the eve of Israel's 71st Independence Day, IDI's new "Israeli Voice Index" survey found that among Jews, a majority (60%) think there were "many more" successes than failures this past year, and one quarter said there were "somewhat more" successes than failures during the same period. In 2018, 80% of Israelis said they were satisfied with Israel's achievements, an increase from 71% as compared with in 2014. Among the religious segment of the population, the rate of those who view the successes as greater than the failures is the highest (93%), versus 80% among the secular. More than three-quarters (77%) of haredim, 83% of the national-religious, 65% of traditional religious and 61% of non-religious are optimistic about the future of democratic governance. Over

time, Jewish Israelis have consistently expressed more pride in being Israeli, although in 2018 a majority of Arab Israelis also said they were proud to be Israeli. Moreover, Israelis are very satisfied with what the country has achieved.

ISRAEL, GAZA-BASED TERRORISTS REACH CEASE-FIRE: After two days of intensifying violence, Israel reportedly agreed to a cease-fire with Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip. Jerusalem did not immediately respond to the announcement by its foes, possibly to avoid a public backlash and insulate PM Netanyahu from widespread criticism related to his Gaza policy. However, Mon. morning 6 May 2019, the Israeli army's Home Front Command lifted restrictions for residents along the shared border, a move all but confirming the sides indeed forged a United Nations- and Egyptian-mediated truce. Over the course of 48 hours, Gaza-based terrorists fired some 700 rockets at Israeli population centers, killing four civilians and wounding hundreds more. For its part, the Israel Defense Forces struck over 300 Hamas and Islamic Jihad assets, including rocket launchers, weapon storehouses, and manufacturing facilities, as well as the homes of numerous terrorist leaders. For the first time in years, the Israeli security cabinet authorized the military to target specific individuals, prompting the assassination of a Hamas operative who acted as the main conduit for funneling Iranian funds to the enclave. International mediators did not disclose the details of the reported cease-fire, although precedents suggest that Hamas and Islamic Jihad agreed to end their rocket fire in exchange for the easing by Israel of restrictions on goods entering Gaza.

AS CEASEFIRE GOES INTO EFFECT, NETANYAHU SAYS GAZA CAMPAIGN NOT OVER: PM Netanyahu on Mon. 6 April 2019 commented on reports of an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire deal in Gaza, after two days of fighting in which four Israelis were killed, saying that Israel was readying for further confrontations with terrorist groups in the coastal enclave. "Over the past two days, we have hit Hamas and Islamic Jihad with great force, attacking over 350 targets and terrorist leaders and activists, and destroying terrorist infrastructure," said Netanyahu. "The campaign is not over. We are preparing to continue," the prime minister added. "The goal was and remains to ensure the peace and security of the residents of the south". The ceasefire was criticized Monday morning by opposition parties, as well as by one senior member of the prime minister's Likud party. MK Gideon Sa'ar (Likud) said the terms of the agreement hold little to no benefit for Israel and will not prevent future violence. Blue and White leader Benny Gantz, a former IDF chief of staff, laid the blame for the rocket onslaught from the Gaza Strip over the weekend at the government's door. "Nearly 700 projectiles were launched at Israeli territory, four were killed and many are wounded," said Gantz. "All of this is the result of losing our deterrence, and it's ending with surrender to more blackmail from Hamas and other terrorist groups. All the government has done is, once again, led us to the next confrontation," he charged.

WORLD LEADERS CONDEMN ROCKET ATTACKS FROM GAZA: The USA State Department and European leaders have condemned last weekend's rocket fire against Israel from the Gaza Strip. A spokesperson for EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said "Only a political solution can put an end to the violence." "The United States strongly condemns the ongoing barrage of rocket attacks by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad from Gaza upon innocent civilians and their communities across Israel," said State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro posted to his personal Twitter account a video showing residents in Israel's southern communities driving amid incoming rocket fire and large explosions surrounding nearby buildings. Germany's foreign ministry also condemned the "massive rocket fire" on Israel writing on its Twitter account, "There is nothing that could justify attacks on civilians. Israel has the right to defend itself and to protect its citizens." Austria also expressed its support for "Israel's right to defend itself" while "strongly" condemning the Gaza rocket fire, said government spokesman Peter Launsky. "Austria firmly stands behind Israel, the security of the country and its population".

ILHAN OMAR DEFENDS PALESTINIANS AFTER TERRORISTS RAIN DOWN ROCKETS ON ISRAEL: USA Rep. Ilhan Omar sided with Hamas and Islamic Jihad hours after terrorists fired hundreds of

rockets at civilian targets in Israel by Hamas last weekend. “How many more protesters must be shot, rockets must be fired, and kids must be killed until the endless cycle of violence ends? The status quo of occupation and humanitarian crisis in Gaza is unsustainable”, the Minnesota Democrat said Sunday night, 5 May 2019. Omar’s comments followed terrorist fire of over 600 rockets [700 by Monday 6 May 2019] into southern Israel, killing at least four Israelis. President Trump condemned the rocket attacks on Twitter and expressed American support for Israel. “Once again, Israel faces a barrage of deadly rocket attacks by terrorist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad. We support Israel 100% in its defense of its citizens,” Trump said on Sunday. “To the Gazan people — these terrorist acts against Israel will bring you nothing but more misery. END the violence and work towards peace - it can happen!”

USA SENDS REINFORCEMENTS TO MIDDLE EAST, WARNS IRAN OF ‘UNRELENTING FORCE’: The Trump administration is deploying air and sea strike forces to the Middle East in response to what it described as “troubling and escalatory indications and warnings” from Iran. It’s not clear what Iranian escalations National Security Adviser John Bolton was referring to Sunday evening 5 May 2019. Israel blames a deadly escalation over the weekend on the Gaza Strip border in part on Iranian arming and funding of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist group. “The United States is deploying the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a bomber task force to the USA Central Command region to send a clear and unmistakable message to the Iranian regime that any attack on United States interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force,” Bolton said. “The United States is not seeking war with the Iranian regime, but we are fully prepared to respond to any attack, whether by proxy, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or regular Iranian forces,” Bolton said.

MONTH OF RAMADAN FASTING FOR MANY MUSLIMS BEGAN MONDAY: United Arab Emirates -- Muslims in Southeast Asian countries like Indonesia and Malaysia, and much of the Middle East, including Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, began fasting on Monday 6 May 2019 for the start of the month of Ramadan. Millions more, however, in India, Pakistan, and Iran, began the start of the lunar month on Tue. 7 May 2019 based on moon sightings there. Muslims follow a lunar calendar, and a moon-sighting methodology can lead to different countries declaring the start of Ramadan a day or two apart. Across the world, Muslims fast each day for the entire month of Ramadan, abstaining from food and drink from dawn to dusk. That means around 15 hours without food, water, cigarettes or caffeine.

ISRAEL REACHES ANOTHER MILESTONE AS POPULATION CROSSES 9 MILLION PEOPLE: Just days before Israel begins its 71st anniversary on Wed. evening 8 May 2019, new figures show the number of Jews and overall population have reached a record high. The Central Bureau of Statistics on Thur. 2 May 2019 reported that the number of residents in Israel stood at 9,009,000. The number of Jews is 6,738,500, or 74.8%. In 1948, Israel had 850,000 residents, of which an estimated 650,000 were Jewish.

HAMAS FIRES OVER 430 ROCKETS FROM GAZA; 4 ISRAELIS WOUNDED 1 MAN KILLED: Over 430 rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip toward Israeli communities on Saturday 4 May 2019. The assault continued overnight, striking several homes, leaving one elderly woman severely wounded by shrapnel and one man dead. Dozens of projectiles were intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system. Several rockets hit homes in communities in southern Israel, including in Sderot and Ashkelon. Magen David Adom reported that a 60-year-old man was declared dead on Saturday night after being critically wounded at approximately 2:30 a.m. following a rocket attack which hit a building in the Ashkelon area. An 80-year-old woman was injured severely earlier in the day and is suffering from shrapnel wounds to her head and limbs. She was evacuated to Barzilai Hospital by MDA teams. Another 50-year-old man in Ashkelon was transferred to hospital moderately injured with shrapnel wounds to his limbs. In addition, MDA treated 3 people who were injured while they were running to shelter including a 15-year-old girl in Sderot, a 30-year-old male in Ashkelon and a 40-year-old female in Gan Yavne. MDA teams also treated numerous victims suffering from shock including an 11-year-old girl. Incoming rocket sirens began on Saturday morning and by the afternoon

were heard in Kiryat Malachi and Beit Shemesh. Meanwhile, the IDF Spokesperson's Unit said on Sunday morning that during the night, IDF warplanes attacked some 60 terrorist targets. By early morning 200 terrorist targets were attacked. In addition, a number of naval vessels belonging to the terrorist organizations throughout the Gaza Strip.

MIKE POMPEO CALLS ILHAN OMAR'S COMMENTS ON VENEZUELA 'DISGUSTING': Secretary of State Mike Pompeo lashed back at Rep. Ilhan Omar for blaming the USA for the violence in Venezuela – calling her comments “ignorant” and “disgusting.” Vice President Mike Pence said Democratic Representative Ilhan Omar ‘chooses socialism over freedom’ in claiming the American government exacerbated the violence in Venezuela. The Minnesota Democrat alleged that the USA created “the devastation” in the South American nation through the use of sanctions and the pursuit of “regime change” amid unrest over a contested election between socialist dictator Nicolas Maduro and opposition leader Juan Guaidó. “So, the nicest thing I can say is it is unbelievable ignorance. It’s just factually wrong,” said Pompeo. The top USA diplomat blamed Venezuela’s problems on socialism. “The problems in Venezuela have been years in the making. It’s been a socialist regime, first with Hugo Chavez, now with Maduro. The destruction of a wealthy nation is taking place, a nation with more oil reserves than any other country in the world,” he said. In blasting Omar, Pompeo brought up that she sits on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. “For a member of Congress, one who sits on an important national committee, to make a statement blaming America first in this way, is not only ignorant, it’s disgusting,” he said. The freshman Democratic congresswoman said of America’s role in Venezuela. “A lot of the policies that we have put in place has helped lead the devastation in Venezuela and we have set the stage for where we are arriving today,” Omar told, “Democracy Now!” “This particular bullying and the use of sanctions to eventually intervene and make regime change does not help the people of countries like Venezuela and it certainly is not in the interest of the United States.”

SECRET VENEZUELA FILES LINK MADURO CONFIDANT WITH HIZBULLAH: Tareck El Aissami, one of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's closest confidants, has been the target of wide-ranging investigations by his own country's intelligence agency. According to a secret dossier provided to the NY Times by a former top Venezuelan intelligence official, El Aissami and his father, Carlos Zaidan El Aissami, a Syrian immigrant who had worked with the Lebanon-based Hizbulah terrorist group, pushed to bring Hizbulah into Venezuela. Carlos was involved in a plan to train Hizbulah members in Venezuela, "with the aim of expanding intelligence networks throughout Latin America and at the same time working in drug trafficking," the documents say. Tareck helped by using his authority over residency permits to issue official documents to Hizbulah terrorists, enabling them to stay in the country. (NY Times) The Hizbulah terrorist organization is one of Israel's most dangerous foes. It is Iranian backed and constantly threatening to attack Israel and to infiltrate Israel's Galilee region. *Hizbulah is the terrorist group that has built attack tunnels under Israel's northern borders and even upon being discovered has vowed it will continue to do the same. Pray that Hizbulah's connection with Venezuela and other Latin American countries will be exposed and cut off. May heavy penalties be imposed on those who support and further terrorism and drug trafficking.*

ALABAMA DEM OPPOSING ABORTION BILL: 'SOME KIDS ARE UNWANTED, SO YOU KILL THEM NOW OR YOU KILL THEM LATER': A Democratic state representative from Alabama is facing fierce backlash over his remarks in opposition to the abortion ban that was approved in his state, saying that "some kids are unwanted, so you kill them now or you kill them later." The Republican-controlled House in Alabama overwhelming approved a bill that would make it a felony to perform an abortion at any stage of a pregnancy -- with a sole exemption for women whose health is at risk. The measure passed with a 74-3 vote. The bill will now advance to the state Senate. Supporters of the legislation hope that the fight will carry on to the USA Supreme Court and encourage the justices to revisit the landmark Roe v Wade decision that legalized abortion in 1973. However, one of the state-level opponents to the anti-abortion legislation, Democratic Rep. John Rogers of Birmingham, spoke out against the vote. "Some kids are unwanted, so you kill them now or you kill them later. You bring them in the world unwanted, unloved, you send them to the electric chair." He

continued by saying some children who face abortion could be "retarded" and "half-deformed." Rogers received major backlash for his remarks.

PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IS MODERN-DAY 'GENOCIDE' SAYS REPORT: Christians are 'by far the most persecuted' religious group and are enduring what amounts to genocide in some parts of the world, a report concluded. They are being driven out of the Middle East in a modern-day exodus that means the religion could be wiped out in parts 'where its roots go back furthest', the study commissioned by the British Foreign Office found. And the report by the Bishop of Truro, the Right Rev Philip Mounstephen, disclosed 'shocking' evidence that the persecution is worse today than ever. Some 245 million Christians are persecuted worldwide in 50 countries, with a rise of 30 million people a year. The bishop said the study found Christians are 'harassed' in more countries than any other religious group, and especially in predominantly Muslim countries in the Middle East and North Africa. In particular, they have been attacked by extremist groups in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, north-eastern Nigeria, and the Philippines, as well as in India and China. He added that the Middle East is witnessing the 'decimation of some of the faith group's oldest and most enduring communities' and called for 'urgent government support'. British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt blamed 'political correctness' for a failure to confront the oppression of Christians, which he called the 'forgotten persecution'. Hunt said he would use Britain's diplomatic influence to defend Christians where they were under attack for their faith, and admitted the problem was sometimes neglected due to 'misplaced worry' that confronting it would be interpreted as 'colonialist'. A final version of the inquiry, commissioned by Hunt, will be released this summer and will cover the Easter Sunday massacre in Sri Lanka.

ABBAS WANT RUSSIA TO SOLVE ITS TERROR PAYMENT'S CRISIS WITH ISRAEL: The Palestinian Authority has demanded that Russia resolve the terror-payment crisis as it rejected an EU compromise solution. To protest Israel's withholding of taxes equal to the sum of money that the PA uses to pay terrorists and their families, the PA has refused to accept any of its tax revenues, a move which many believe could lead to its financial collapse. According to the UN, tax revenues make up 65% of the PA budget. The PA rejected an EU proposal that would place the prisoners on the social welfare roll, where money would be provided on a needs-based system. The PA insisted that the prisoners be paid on the basis of "merit" [according to the severity of the terror act]. Although the EU often sees eye-to-eye with the Palestinians, it took a strong stand against the terror payments. EU Commissioner for the European Neighborhood Johannes Hahn said: "We do not support the system of Palestinian payments to prisoners and martyrs." Last weekend PA President Mahmoud Abbas met with the head of the Russian Representative Office in Ramallah, Aganin Rashidovich, and demanded that Russia intervene with Israel to halt the deductions.

CAPSULE HOTEL OPENS IN JERUSALEM: Popular for years in overcrowded Asian countries like China and Japan, capsule, or pod hotels are now making their way to Israel. The first such accommodation, appropriately named Capsule Inn, opened recently in downtown Jerusalem with 26 capsules neatly arranged in one large open space. Each capsule has a comfortable bed, cable television, air conditioning, a safe, telephone, and Wi-Fi connectivity. In the common area, guests share a large bathroom, locker room, and lounge with coffee stand. It's the perfect setup for all those backpackers who make their way through Israel each year, especially given the price of just 99 shekels (\$27) per night. Several more pod hotels are scheduled to open in Tel Aviv later this year.

ISRAEL MARKS HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY: Israel on Wed. 1 May 2019 marked Holocaust Remembrance Day with ceremonies taking place throughout the country from 8 pm. A two-minute air-raid siren sounded on Thur. 2 May 2019 at 10 am throughout Israel, calling people to a standstill, including all pedestrians and drivers, for a time of reflection and mourning for six million Jewish people who were brutally murdered during the Holocaust. The Holocaust refers to the period from 30 January 1933, when Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, to 8 May 1945 the end of the war in Europe. Millions of Jewish men, women, and children were murdered by Hitler and his brutal cohorts during this time. While it is impossible to ascertain

the exact number of Jewish victims, six million is the round figure. Auschwitz was a network of concentration and death camps built and operated by the Third Reich in Polish areas annexed by Nazi Germany during World War II. Buchenwald was a German Nazi concentration camp established near Weimar, Germany, in July 1937, one of the first and largest of the concentration camps on German soil. It was in holes such as these that Jewish victims were starved, tortured, subjected to slave labor, beatings, inhumane medical experiments and murdered in gas chambers by the millions. Elderly Holocaust survivors in Israel suffer mental and physical torments to this day. Their children in many cases bear traumatic scars as a result of being raised by such emotionally and physically shattered parents. *For decades both the Jewish people and millions of non - Jews who have abhorred this most brutal time in history have said, "never again" will this horror take place on the face of the earth. Tragically anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism is again spiraling among the peoples of the earth and their governments. Intercede against the spiritual forces of hatred and violence against the Jewish people and Israel. Pray that those who stand for the Jewish state in high places will introduce and pass mandates outlawing and punishing anti-Semitism.*

ISRAELI ENVOY CALLS FOR CRIMINALIZING ANTI-SEMITISM AFTER NEW YORK TIMES CARTOON: The only way to stop anti-Semitism is to criminalize it, Israel's Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon told reporters in New York on Mon. 29 April 2019. "The time for talking and having a conversation is over," Danon said. "What Israel and the Jewish community around the world demand is action - and now." Danon said that those who engage in anti-Semitism "must be punished. Whether it is carried by political leaders, editors, policy pundits or college professors, it does not matter. Anti-Semitism should have no place in our society," he continued. "Until it becomes criminal, this bigotry will persist; it will fester. It is only a matter of time until it erupts again in violence and bloodshed. "Danon spoke shortly after a shooter killed one Jewish worshiper and wounded three others at the Chabad synagogue in Poway California. That same weekend, The New York Times published a cartoon widely held to be classically anti-Semitic. Danon linked the two events with a shooting that occurred at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue in October, in which 11 worshipers were killed.

"From the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh to the Chabad synagogue in Poway California, anti-Semitism is no longer fringe bigotry in the USA," Danon said. "Then, as now, all the right people are saying all the right things. They express their sympathies and call for an end to this violence and bigotry. It seems that we have learned nothing from the Pittsburgh attack, and we are likely to continue to do nothing following the attack in San Diego," Danon continued. He added that since October, members of Congress have openly exposed themselves as anti-Semites, and that the NYT cartoon "could have been taken from the pages of Der Stürmer, the Nazi propaganda paper. And yet, these actions have gone unpunished," Danon said.

POWAY SHOOTER HAD 50 UNFIRED BULLETS: John Earnest, the man accused of attacking the Chabad of Poway synagogue in Southern California this past Shabbat fired less than 10 of the roughly 60 bullets he had before his weapon jammed, prosecutors said Tue. 30 April 2019. Earnest, 19, pleaded not guilty to charges of murder and attempted murder in the shooting in which one woman was killed and three people wounded, including the synagogue's rabbi. The suspect's parents said their son and five siblings were raised in a family that "rejected hate and taught that love must be the motive for all we do. To our great shame, he is now part of the history of evil that has been perpetrated on Jewish people for centuries".

ANTI-SEMITIC ATTACKS SPIKE, KILLING MORE JEWS THAN HAS HAPPENED IN DECADES: Assaults targeting Jews rose 13% in 2018, according to Tel Aviv University researchers. They recorded nearly 400 cases worldwide, with more than a quarter of the major violent cases taking place in the USA. In Germany, there was a 70% increase in anti-Semitic violence. "There is an increasing sense of emergency among Jews in many countries around the world," said Moshe Kantor, president of the European Jewish Congress. "It is now clear that anti-Semitism is no longer limited to the far-left, far-right and radical Islamist's triangle - it has become mainstream and often accepted by civil society."

ANTI-SEMITISM IN CANADA RISES TO ‘NEW NORMAL’: Anti-Semitic incidents in Canada rose to a record high for the third consecutive year, according to an annual audit by B’nai Brith Canada released this week. The audit showed 2,041 anti-Semitic incidents recorded last year in Canada – 16.5% more than the 1,752 incidents in 2017. “To put that in stark perspective, this represents the third straight record-breaking year for anti-Semitism in Canada, reflecting a ‘new normal’ regarding the landscape of anti-Semitism here,” said Ran Ukashi, director of B’nai Brith Canada. The group said the surge was fueled by social media and was a worldwide trend. Specific incidents included lit fireworks being thrown at Hasidic Jews in Quebec and two students in Saskatchewan province being beaten.

CORBYN AGAIN UNDER FIRE FOR ENDORSING ANTI-SEMITIC BOOK: British Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn is again under fire after he was found to have endorsed a book which argued that Europe’s banks and press were controlled by Jews. Corbyn wrote a foreword to the new edition of a 1902 book, “Imperialism: A Study” by JA Hobson, that spread conspiracy theories about the Rothschild family, and described it as a “great tome”. Hobson wrote in the original book that finance was controlled by “men of a single and peculiar race”. The author insisted this financial might was behind the imperialism and military policies pursued by Britain and the West. In his foreword to the new edition of the book, Corbyn praised Hobson’s “brilliant” analysis. He went on to argue that the war on terror at the time was driven by economic interests. Furious critics pointed out Labour activists had been suspended for re-tweeting conspiracy theories about the Rothschilds – and demanded an apology. Labour against Anti-Semitism said the revelation proved Jeremy Corbyn “shouldn’t be allowed anywhere near Downing Street”. It said the foreword was as “damaging” as his support in 2012 for an “offensive” mural that featured anti-Semitic tropes. “Decent people will be sickened to see him describing as ‘brilliant’ a book by someone who pushed deeply and clearly racist theories about Jewish people controlling banks, newspapers, governments, and wars to further their financial interests. Jeremy Corbyn’s leadership has poisoned the Labour Party,” the group said.

TRUMP WANTS TO DESIGNATE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD A TERROR GROUP: President Trump is pushing on designating the Muslim Brotherhood a foreign terrorist organization, according to media reports on Tue 30 April 2019. The Muslim Brotherhood has been designated a terrorist organization by countries such as Russia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates. According to reports, the Trump administration directed national security and diplomatic officials to come up with ways to slap sanctions on the Islamist political movement. This comes after Trump met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, who has long decried the Muslim Brotherhood that has opposed his rule in the country. By designating the movement as a terror group, it would immediately become the target of American sanctions and restrictions, including travel bans and other limits on economic activity. It would become a criminal act for Americans to fund the group, ban banks from processing money for it, bar those with ties to the group from coming to the United States and make it easier to deport immigrants who have worked with the organization. While John Bolton, the national security adviser, and Mike Pompeo, the secretary of state support the move, some officials within the Pentagon oppose the designation and instead are working to come up with a more moderate compromise. *As has been proven time and again, terrorist groups do not comprehend the meaning of “moderate compromise.” They often prefer suicide to the slightest measure of co-operation or concessions to their demands. The Muslim Brotherhood is commonly known as the “father of all terrorist groups” including the Gaza Strip-based Hamas terrorist group. Intercede that President Trump will indeed obtain a full measure of support to designate The Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization and to impose debilitating sanctions on this group and all of its supporters.*

GERMAN CHRISTIANS TO PRESENT 265-POUND GOLDEN MENORAH TO JERUSALEM: A group of 11 pro-Israel German Christians left on a boat for Israel Mon. 29 April 2019, bringing with them a 5-foot, 265-pound gilded menorah. A life-size replica of the Temple lamp, the menorah is traveling from Germany via Rome to the port of Haifa. It will arrive on 5 May 2019 and be presented to the public on 9 May 2019 at a special ceremony in Jerusalem. The group of independent Germans, who call themselves simply “The

Menorah Project," said they have been working on the piece for a year and a half. They raised 120,000 euros in private donations to fund the initiative. "The seven-branched menorah is a symbol of the State of Israel," said Luca-Elias Hezel, who initiated the project. He said the menorah, modeled after the menorah at the Titus Gate in Rome, is being given to the Jewish people with "a broad heart and in solidarity" and as a gift on Israel's 71st Independence Day.

Today, in Rome, one can still see a replica of the menorah at the Arch of Titus, which serves as a reminder of the Roman Empire's triumph over the Jews in Judea and their conquest of Jerusalem. The Romans destroyed the Jewish Temple in 70 A.D. The robbery according to the website symbolically stands for the distance between the early church and its Jewish roots, which ultimately led to what is known as Replacement theology: the idea that God replaced Israel with the Church. Replacement theology is often blamed as the root cause of anti-Semitism, including the Holocaust. "The church never returned the holy instruments to the Jewish people," the Menorah Project explained. "Instead, the church saw itself as the new spiritual Israel. We want to set a statement. It is a public statement towards the Jewish people and an act of asking for forgiveness as well," said the project leaders.



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