

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update May 23, 2019 ***(18th Lyyar, 5779)***

Yachad Miniseries

*is now offering free shipping for
orders over \$50.00 on all CDs, Books,
Jewelry and Judaica items:*

Call 770-641-3000 ext. 6



[For the Yachad Report Newsletter For May 2019](#)

SAUDI ARABIA INVITES ARAB STATES TO EMERGENCY SUMMITS: Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has invited Arab states and Gulf leaders to two emergency summits which will take place on 30 May 2019 in Mecca. The summits are intended to discuss "aggressions and their consequences" in the region. "The attack on ships in the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates and the Iran-backed Houthi terrorists' strike on two oil pumping station in the Kingdom have serious implications for regional and international peace and security and for the supply and stability of world oil markets," stated the Saudi foreign ministry. The invitation comes after four commercial vessels were sabotaged off the coast of the UAE and Houthi militias [terrorists] used explosive-laden drones to attack two oil pumping stations in Saudi Arabia. Last week, an anonymous USA official said that an initial assessment showed that "Iran or Iranian-backed proxies" had blown holes in four ships in the Gulf of Oman off the coast of the United Arab Emirates.

SAUDI ARABIA AND GULF STATES HAVE AGREED TO DEPLOY USA FORCES TO DETER IRAN: Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states have agreed to a request for a renewed deployment of USA forces to deter Iran. According to the report, the deployment of the forces comes as part of the cooperation agreement between Washington and the Arab states in the Gulf, and will take place both at sea and on land. A Saudi official told London-based media sources that "the agreement was aimed at deterring Iran from a military escalation, including attacking American targets." The leader of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, Qassem Soleimani, met with leaders of Shi'ite militias [terrorist groups] in Baghdad and ordered them to "prepare for war by proxy," the UK Guardian reported. Two intelligence sources told the newspaper that Soleimani had summoned the Iranian-backed terrorist militias about three weeks ago in light of the tension in the region. The move aroused concern in the USA that there was a threat to American targets in the Middle East. The United States has increased its forces in the Middle East, including aircraft carriers, B52

bombers, and Patriot missiles, in response to intelligence information that the Iranian regime ordered its proxies to attack American forces in the region.

BAHRAIN WARNS CITIZENS TO ‘IMMEDIATELY’ LEAVE IRAN, IRAQ: Bahrain days ago, warned its citizens to leave Iran and Iraq "immediately" and to avoid traveling there in the near future. According to media sources, the country's Foreign Ministry mentioned "unstable regional circumstances" as well as "dangerous developments and potential threats."

USA AIRLINES WARNED ABOUT RISK OF FLYING OVER PERSIAN GULF AMID TENSIONS WITH IRAN: USA diplomats have warned that USA air carriers and commercial operators flying over the Persian Gulf face a risk from being "misidentified" as tensions between USA and Iran continue to escalate. The recent warning, relayed by officials in Kuwait and the UAE, came from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). It said that all USA air carriers and commercial operators flying over the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman should exercise caution due to "heightened military activities and increased political tension" in the region. This presents "an increasing inadvertent risk to USA civil aviation operations due to the potential for miscalculation or misidentification," the FAA said. It also warned that aircraft flying over the region could experience inadvertent GPS interference and other communications jamming, which could occur "with little to no warning".

The Persian Gulf is a major gateway in global air travel and the FAA said the warning applies to airspace "over water and above the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman". The region is home to Dubai International Airport, one of the world's busiest intersections for international travel. Concerns about a possible conflict between the USA and Iran have flared since the White House sent a warship and bombers to the region to counter Tehran's reported plans to attack American forces or interests in the region. The rising tensions have also seen Washington order all non-essential diplomatic staff out of Iraq. Britain has also raised the threat level for UK forces and diplomats in Iraq because of what sources say is a heightened security risk from Iran and last week told British-Iranian dual nationals not to travel to Iran.

TRUMP: I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT, BUT YOU CAN'T LET IRAN HAVE NUKES: USA President Donald Trump vowed in an interview with Fox News on Sunday 19 May 2019 not to let Iran get nuclear weapons, though he reiterated his reluctance to go to war. While Trump continued opposing military intervention, he indicated Iranian nuclear development would constitute an urgent exception. "I don't want to fight. But you do have situations like Iran, you can't let them have nuclear weapons - you just can't let that happen," he said. "I'm not somebody that wants to go into war, because war hurts economies, war kills people most importantly - by far most importantly," he said. "I ended the Iran Nuclear Deal, and actually, I must tell you - I had no idea it was going to be as strong as it was. The country is devastated from the standpoint of the economy," said Trump. The interview with Trump aired hours after he warned Iran on Twitter not to threaten his country. "If Iran wants to fight, that will be the official end of Iran. Never threaten the United States again!"

USA SANCTIONS ARE LIMITING IRAN'S ABILITY TO FUND HEZBOLLAH: The latest wave of USA sanctions has significantly curbed Iran's ability to fund Hezbollah. The Lebanese terrorist group has traditionally been the best-funded Islamic Republic's proxy, with its fighters and affiliates benefiting from salaries and social services paid for by Tehran. However, speaking to several Hezbollah officials, media sources revealed how the sanctions imposed by the Trump administration after the USA pulled out from the 2015 nuclear deal a year ago had had a deep impact on the funding. "There is no doubt these sanctions have had a negative impact," a Hezbollah official told The Washington Post on the condition of anonymity. "But ultimately, sanctions are a component of war, and we are going to confront them in this context." According to USA Special Envoy Brian Hook, Iran used to send the Lebanese group up to \$700 million a year, accounting for 70% of their revenue. It added that the Trump administration has stated that sanctions have decreased Iranian revenue by \$10 billion since last November. However, the Hezbollah officials who spoke

to American reporters said that the current financial predicaments are not affecting the group's ability to fight against Israel. "We are still getting arms from Iran. We are still ready to confront Israel.

WHITE HOUSE BEGINS ROLL OUT OF PART OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE PLAN: The Trump administration is planning to release the economic component of its upcoming Middle East peace plan late next month, senior White House officials said Sunday 19 May 2019, adding that it would break up the release of the much-anticipated plan. The first half of the plan, dubbed the "Deal of the Century" by President Trump, will be released at an international summit in Manama, Bahrain on 25 – 26 June 2019. The USA is playing down the summit, however, and is calling the event a "workshop". "This workshop is a pivotal opportunity to convene government, civil society, and business leaders to share ideas, discuss strategies, and galvanize support for potential economic investments and initiatives that could be made possible by a peace agreement," the White House stated. Only the economic component of the plan will be released at the international summit, the White House said, with the more sensitive political portions to be publicized at a later date. The workshop will focus heavily on economic development in the Gaza Strip, with an emphasis on four areas: infrastructure, industry, governance reforms, and investing in human capital. Some senior officials have hinted that the plan will not provide for the establishment of a Palestinian state. Last month, senior Trump adviser Jared Kushner emphasized that the new peace plan would be to try something "different" with regards to the two-state solution.

"BAHRAIN LEADING THE WAY IN ARAB GULF'S NEW TIES WITH ISRAEL": Rabbi Marc Schneier, Special Advisor to King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain, hailed the Gulf Arab state's hosting of the USA rollout of the upcoming Middle East peace plan as a sign of the country's role in reshaping Arab relations with Israel and the Jewish world. "I have always said that Bahrain would lead the charge in the Gulf on establishing relations with Israel because of their shared interests – the threat they face from Iran and the economic benefits to an alliance," said Rabbi Schneier on Monday 20 May 2019. "As such, the White House announcement that it is going to hold an economic summit in Bahrain next month to promote the USA peace plan makes complete sense. Since 2011, King Hamad has been at the forefront of major initiatives to bring the Gulf and Israel closer together and he's earned this honor and distinction to be the Gulf leader and the Gulf state to host this historic conference."

ISRAELI ECONOMY GREW AT 5.2% IN Q1 2019: There was a sharp rise in GDP growth in Israel in the first quarter of 2019, the Central Bureau of Statistics reports. According to the first estimate, the economy grew 5.2% on an annualized basis in the first quarter. This compares with 3.9% in the fourth quarter of 2018 and 2.8% in the third quarter of 2018. Economic growth has reportedly been boosted by an exceptionally large rise in vehicle imports. Business output rose 5.8% on an annualized basis in the first quarter of 2019, after rising 3.9% in the fourth quarter of 2018 and 2.5% in the third quarter of 2018. Imports of goods and services rose 6.7% on an annualized basis in the first quarter of 2019. Exports of goods and services grew 4.9% on an annualized basis in the first quarter of 2019.

DANNY DANON'S BIBLE SPEECH GOES VIRAL: The UN Security Council recently convened for a periodic discussion on the Middle East, during which Israel's ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, delivered a speech detailing the rights of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel. In his speech, Danon presented the "four pillars" that link Judaism to the Land and even read a chapter from the Bible in Hebrew while wearing a kippah (skullcap). Danon mentioned the Balfour Declaration and the story of the tribe of Judah to illustrate the Jewish people's historical connection to Israel. He also referred to the UN Charter and international law, saying that they too recognize the right of the Jewish people to the land of Israel. A few days after the UN debate, websites around the world began to cover the speech extensively, calling it the "Biblical speech" and "the speech defending the rights of the Jewish people." The message was translated into Spanish, Polish, French, Portuguese and even Turkish.

The video of the speech also gained momentum among the Evangelical Christian community worldwide. After the message went viral, Danon was invited to be interviewed on CNN, and Fox News. The speech has already received tens of thousands of views in its Hebrew and English versions on the YouTube page of the Israeli delegation to the UN and continues to gain momentum on Facebook groups which support Israel. Ambassador Danon expressed his satisfaction with the reactions to his message. "The speech resonated so well due to the power of truth, and its success was a welcome surprise, as it conveyed to the world the strength of an eternal connection between the Jewish people and the Land of Israel."

GERMANY ADOPTS MOTION DEFINING BDS AS ANTI-SEMITIC: Germany's Bundestag adopted on Friday 17 May 2019 a motion defining the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement as anti-Semitic. It marks the first time a major European parliament has taken this step. The motion, backed by Chancellor Angela Merkel's CDU party, as well as social-democrat SPD, the Green Party and FPD, also calls on the German government to refrain from funding or supporting any groups that "question Israel's right to exist." It stipulates that in light of the Bundestag's recognition of the importance of combating anti-Semitism, Germany must resolutely condemn calls to boycott Israel. The motion says that the BDS movement's "Don't Buy" stickers evoke a Nazi slogan, "Don't buy from Jews." The motion also states that the German parliament "welcomes the many municipalities that have already decided to refuse financial support to the movement" and "strongly condemns campaigns against the sale of Israeli products or for boycotting prominent Israeli individuals". The German government has stressed the importance of fighting anti-Semitism in recent years as reports find that it has been on the increase in the country.

NETANYAHU PRAISES GERMANY: PM Binyamin Netanyahu on Friday 17 May 2019 welcomed the German Bundestag's approval of a resolution condemning the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. "I congratulate the German Bundestag on the important decision that recognizes the BDS as an anti-Semitic movement and declares that it is forbidden to fund it. I particularly appreciate the Bundestag's call on Germany to stop funding organizations working against Israel's existence. I call on other countries to adopt similar legislation," said Netanyahu.

HAMAS THANKS BRITISH LABOUR LEADER: The Hamas terrorist group on Thur. 16 May 2019 thanked British Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn for his message of solidarity to a pro-Palestinian rally in London. "We have received with great respect and appreciation the solidarity message sent by the British Labor Party Leader, Jeremy Corbyn, to the participants in the mass rally that took place in central London," the group said. The message followed a recent march in London in honor of "Nakba Day", on which Arabs mark what they view as the "catastrophe" of the establishment of the State of Israel. Corbyn sent a message to the marchers calling on the British government to condemn the killing of protesters in Gaza and freeze arms sales to Israel. He also promised that if he becomes prime minister he would recognize "Palestine" as a state. Hamas praised Corbyn for taking an "advanced moral and political position worthy of all praise and thanks." The message was read out to a huge crowd in central London at a rally that was slammed by anti-racist campaigners as highly anti-Semitic.

Corbyn's Labour party has been embroiled in a series of controversies related to anti-Semitism in recent years. Dozens of Labour members have been suspended over their anti-Semitic statements. Corbyn himself has been accused of holding anti-Semitic views by senior UK Jewish leaders. Corbyn has also been criticized for calling Hamas and Hezbollah his "friends" and for outright refusing to condemn those two terrorist organizations despite being urged to do so by local Jewish groups. A spokesman for Corbyn said, "Jeremy Corbyn has a long record of solidarity with the Palestinian people. That is the right thing to do."

'PA CAN PAY ITS HOSPITAL BILLS IF IT STOPS PAYING TERRORISTS': Jason Greenblatt, the USA Representative for International Negotiations, said on Thur. 16 May 2019 that the Palestinian Authority (PA) could pay its own hospital bills if it stops paying salaries to terrorists and their families. Greenblatt was replying on Twitter to an inquiry by a Channel 13 News reporter, who asked Greenblatt why the USA stopped

funding PA hospitals in eastern Jerusalem. "The PA incurred bills at the hospital and assumed someone else would pay. We want those patients to receive the best care - the PA could easily pay its own bills to the hospital by ending incentive payments to terrorists/their families and use the money to care for their people," Greenblatt wrote in response. PA officials have made clear that the PA will never cease paying terrorists' salaries. *Israeli Arabs live in a country, with extensive economic opportunities and democratic freedoms. These benefits, rights, and possibilities for growth are obtainable for Palestinians living in Judea & Samaria and Gaza. The cost is simply choosing methods to bring about peace rather than - incitement to and rewards for - committing acts of terror, hatred of the Jewish state, educating children and young people to despise Israel, and glorifying terrorist murderers as heroes. Intercede for new Palestinian leaders to come to the forefront who have a true vision and capabilities for promoting peace.*

MISSOURI HOUSE APPROVES 8-WEEK ABORTION BAN, SENDING IT TO GOVERNOR'S

DESK: The Missouri House on Friday 17 May 2019 approved a restrictive abortion bill that would ban abortions after the eighth week of pregnancy -- one of a slew of similar bills in southern states that have sparked a heated national debate on abortion rights. The bill was passed by the Senate on the previous day, and now with approval from the House goes to Republican Gov. Mike Parson, who is expected to sign it. The legislation would make Missouri one of the most restrictive states in the country for abortions. The bill includes exceptions for medical emergencies, but not for rape and incest. It also bans abortions based solely on race, sex or a diagnosis of potential Down Syndrome. Doctors could face 15 years in prison for performing an abortion at eight weeks and beyond. The bill's passage in the House comes after Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed a law on Wed.15 May 2019 that would outlaw almost all abortions, making performing one punishable by up to 99 years in prison unless the mother's health is at risk. That law, too, did not grant exemptions in cases of rape or incest.

EARTHQUAKE ROCKS ISRAEL: A 4.6-magnitude earthquake shook Israel last week. No injuries were reported, but residents from the North to the South of the country including Jerusalem described shakings and damage to homes. The epicenter of the quake was 200 kilometers west of Israel and 10 km (6.2 miles) under the Mediterranean Sea. Israel's Home Front Command posted guidelines to residents across the country on how to take action to protect lives. The last time Israel was rocked by an earthquake was just this past January, when a tremor of 3.6 magnitude was felt in the north of the country. There have been 5 earthquakes in the past 365 days in Israel, according to the USA Geological Survey program, which accurately monitors seismic activities around the globe.

USA ORDERS NON-EMERGENCY EMBASSY STAFF TO LEAVE IRAQ:

As tensions continue to rise between Iran and the United States, the USA State Department ordered the departure of "non-emergency USA government employees" from Iraq on Wed.15 May 2019. The notice urged those affected to "depart by commercial transportation as soon as possible." The statement came after USA Central Command (CENTCOM) raised the threat level in Iraq and Syria on Tue.14 May 2019 issuing a statement saying that USA troops in Iraq and Syria were on high alert against a possible "imminent" attack by Iran and its proxies. "USA Central Command, in coordination with Operation Inherent Resolve, has increased the force posture level for all service members assigned to OIR in Iraq and Syria," the statement says. "As a result, OIR is now at a high level of alert as we continue to closely monitor credible and possibly imminent threats to USA forces in Iraq." The USA State Department also issued a Level 4 travel advisory against traveling to the country. Tensions have skyrocketed between Iran and the USA in the past week following intelligence reports that Tehran and its proxies might be preparing to attack American troops or its allies in the Middle East. The Pentagon approved the deployment of a B-52 bomber task force, one Patriot missile defense battery, an amphibious transport dock and an aircraft carrier strike group to CENTCOM's region.

NETANYAHU: UNITED IN OUR DESIRE TO STOP IRANIAN AGGRESSION:

PM Binyamin Netanyahu on Tue. 14 May 2019 expressed support for USA President Donald Trump's stance against Iranian

aggression. "There is a new efflorescence, a new renaissance of relations between us and many of our Arab neighbors, and many non-Arab Muslim countries. We are united in our desire to stop Iranian aggression," said Netanyahu at an event marking the one year anniversary of the USA Embassy moving to Jerusalem. "We have to keep on strengthening the State of Israel and keep on strengthening the indispensable alliance with America," he added. Netanyahu's comments came as Washington deployed an aircraft carrier strike group and nuclear-capable bombers to the Gulf in the wake of unspecified threats from Iran. Hours earlier, USA President Donald Trump warned that Iran would "suffer greatly" if it targeted USA interests. "We'll see what happens with Iran. If they do anything, it will be a very bad mistake. If they do anything they will suffer greatly," he said. Netanyahu has been a full supporter of Trump's policy regarding Iran. In Nov. 2018 when Trump reimposed sanctions on Iran in the wake of the withdrawal from the deal, Netanyahu welcomed the move as "a historic day". Last week, after Iran announced it would reduce some "voluntary" commitments within the nuclear deal, Netanyahu vowed that Israel will prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

ISRAEL MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF USA EMBASSY MOVE TO JERUSALEM: At an event on Tue. 14 May 2019 marking the one-year anniversary of the USA Embassy move to Jerusalem, Ambassador to Israel David Friedman said: "We have created a new shrine in the ancient city of Jerusalem, and we're extremely proud of it." He noted that every day tour buses drive by the embassy. Friedman added, "The move of the embassy was the validation by the strongest nation in the world that it recognized the unbreakable, historical and truthful connection between the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem."

ALABAMA PASSES NEAR-TOTAL ABORTION BAN: Alabama lawmakers passed a bill on Tue. 14 May 2019 banning nearly all abortions, including those in rape and incest cases. The 25 to six vote makes it the most restrictive anti-abortion measure passed since pro-life campaigners were defeated in the landmark Roe v. Wade case in 1973. Under the Alabama bill, the only exceptions are to safeguard the health of the mother, while doctors could face 10 years in prison for attempting an abortion and 99 years for actually carrying out the procedure. The bill was previously approved by the Alabama House of Representatives and will now go to Republican Governor Kay Ivey, who is a strong opponent of abortion. The bill comes as part of a multi-state effort to have the USA Supreme Court reconsider a woman's constitutional right to an abortion. Legislation to restrict abortion rights has been introduced in 16 states this year, four of whose governors have signed bills banning abortion if an embryonic heartbeat can be detected. Georgia recently signed into law the so-called heartbeat bill to outlaw abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detectable - typically around the six-week mark. Republican lawmaker Terri Collins, sponsor of the legislation, said: "Our bill says that baby in the womb is a person." Just this year, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Ohio have also outlawed abortion under the heartbeat law.

BBC ACCUSED OF COVERING UP PALESTINIAN ANTI-SEMITISM: The BBC is being accused of covering up Palestinian Arab anti-Semitism after it mistranslated in subtitles the word for "Jew" to "Israeli" several times in one documentary. The film "One Day in Gaza," about last year's Gaza border protests against the opening of the USA Embassy in Jerusalem, aired this week on the BBC Two channel. Among the quotes that were mistranslated was one in an interview with Bader Saleh, 24, who said that during the protests, "The revolutionary songs, they excite you, they encourage you to rip a Jew's head off." The BBC translated his word, "Yahud", as "Israeli". It was one of at least five times that the word was mistranslated as Israeli. Holocaust historian Deborah Lipstadt criticized the translation. "Yet another blatant example of the failure to take the scourge of anti-Semitism seriously," she tweeted. The North West Friends of Israel in the UK also tweeted its criticism. "When Palestinians use the word 'Yahud' they mean 'Jew.' It does NOT mean 'Israeli.' Why do you mistranslate 'Yahud'? Are you scared of showing that Palestinians want to kill JEWS?!"

JEWISH WOMAN STABBED NINE TIMES, CRITICALLY INJURED IN SWEDEN: A Jewish woman is fighting for her life after she was stabbed on the street in the center of the Swedish city of Helsingborg on Tue. 14 May 2019. The woman, around 60-years-old, is an active member of the city's Jewish

congregation. Police in Denmark has arrested a man believed to be involved in the brutal assault. According to local reports, the attacker stabbed her nine times. The alleged attacker is a Muslim man known by the Swedish police. The Jewish community believes the incident is an anti-Semitic hate crime. Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said: "Once again, Jews in Europe are in danger. Today's brutal stabbing of a member of the Jewish community in Helsingborg, Sweden, is yet another reminder that we cannot rely on fading memories of the Holocaust to keep today's Jewish communities safe, as our schools, synagogues and community centers are turning into fortresses. Our thoughts and prayers are with the injured, her family and community. Jews need to live in calm and security just like the other residents in their countries. Enough with anti-Semitic terror!"

GERMANY SEES 20% RISE IN ANTI-SEMITIC CRIME IN 2019: Anti-Semitic crime rose by almost 20% in Germany last year, the interior minister said on Tue. 14 May 2019, blaming most incidents on individuals espousing radical far-right world views. Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said around 90% of the 1,800 recorded incidents were perpetrated by supporters of radical far-right groups. The main offenses included hate speech, anti-Semitic graffiti and displaying banned signs like the swastika. "This is a development that we must confront, especially in this country," Seehofer told a news conference, alluding to Germany's Nazi past. "This is a job for the police as well as for the whole society." Germany's Jews are alarmed by the rise of the nationalist Alternative for Germany (AFD) party, whose leaders have been accused of playing down Nazi crimes. The AFD denies it harbors racist views and has blamed a rise in attacks on Jews and Jewish businesses on asylum seekers from majority Muslim countries.

TEL AVIV TO HOST WORLD'S LARGEST VEGAN FOOD FESTIVAL: Vegan Fest will take place at Tel Aviv's Sarona complex from 6-7 June 2019 and according to the organizers it will be the largest such festival in the world. Vegans are those who consume no meat, dairy, fish or eggs. Tel Aviv is said to have about 400 restaurants that are either vegan or have vegan options on their menus according to the No Camels website. Over 50,000 people are expected to attend the festival which will feature 37 stalls with 26 local restaurants in participation. Live music, cooking workshops, and a children's area will also be featured.



Robert I. Solomon: Messianic Rabbi, rabbisolomon@yachad.com

Jeffery Blalock: Ministries Coordinator, jeffery@yachad.com

Yachad Ministries, 950 Pine Grove Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075

E-mail: info@yachad.com, Web Page: www.yachad.com

Phone: 770-641-3000 (ext. 6)

Sharing Yeshua in unity with both Jew and Gentile

To unsubscribe [click here](#).