

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update August 1, 2019 ***(29th Tamuz, 5779)***

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A golden menorah with seven branches and a bottle of Anointing Oil. The menorah is ornate with a central stem and seven branches, each ending in a flame-shaped tip. The bottle is glass with a gold cap and a label that reads "Anointing Oil".

For the Yachad Report Newsletter For August 2019

PALESTINIAN JOURNALIST: 'HAMAS BRINGS KIDS TO FRONT LINE TO DIE': A Palestinian journalist has described in detail how Hamas operatives take children in buses to protest against Israel on the Gaza border. In a new documentary released by TPS, the journalist, whose face is blurred and his voice distorted for security reasons, says he has witnessed Hamas operatives taking chairs and sitting nearby the fence eating seeds and watching people die. “They bring children to the playgrounds and let them play and then encourage them to do whatever they can to get close to the fence,” the journalist told media sources. The documentary focuses on the March of Return riots, which started in March of last year. Some 2,200 terror-related incidents have been reported since the start of the riots - a combination of gunfire, explosive devices, and Molotov cocktail attacks. One IDF soldier has been killed and several more wounded. By Palestinian estimates, more than 200 people have been killed, including children. “The goal is to bias the general public opinion because the general public opinion is that the kids are safe,” the journalist reported. “Hamas exploits this to claim that Israel is killing our children.”

GOOGLE BLOCKS ANTI-SEMITIC CONTENT IN SPAIN: The Lawfare Project has achieved a significant breakthrough in its efforts to block some of the worst examples of online Jew-hatred from Google search results in Spain. As a result of legal action taken last year by Spanish Jews, Google has reached an understanding with lawyers in Spain to block defamatory content, including material promoting Nazi ideology and denying the Holocaust. Due to a mutual understanding with Google, Lawfare Project lawyers acting for Spanish Jewish claimants filed several take-down notices with Google identifying content in its search results that included extreme and defamatory racism against the Jewish people. Google's lawyers examined the complaints and, subsequently, various examples of anti-Semitic content identified in the notices are now blocked from appearing in Google searches in Spain. This is the first time that Google has blocked illegal content against the Jewish People based on defamation complaints. Brooke Goldstein, Executive Director of

The Lawfare Project, said: "For many, the road to anti-Semitic radicalization is through an online search result. It is unacceptable, immoral, and unlawful in Spain for online platforms to profit from extreme and violent propaganda against Jews. The Lawfare Project will continue to support such actions in Europe to get tech firms to clean up their act."

ISRAELI EMBASSY IN FINLAND ATTACKED FOR THE 15TH TIME IN PAST 18 MONTHS: The glass front door of the embassy in Helsinki was shattered last week, and images of swastikas and Adolf Hitler were hung in the entrance to the building. The Israeli Embassy in Finland has been vandalized by neo-Nazi and far-right extremists for at least the 15th time in the last year and a half. Israel's Foreign Affairs Ministry called the attack "another link in the chain of anti-Semitic attacks targeting the embassy. The Israeli Embassy in Helsinki expressed its disgust over the events to the Finnish authorities and demanded they act in full force to locate the culprits, bring them to justice and prevent similar incidents from happening in the future." Meanwhile, Senior officials in Finland have expressed concern over the attacks, but have not taken real action against their perpetrators.

HAMAS: 'KILL THE JEWS. IN PARIS YOU ARE FREE TO DO SO': Why do the progressives continue to support the Palestinian Arabs, not recognizing who really are the enemies of Israel, the Jews, and the West? The explanation lies in Paris, where Arabs rallied and fought hard for the Palestinian Intifadas. In July 2014, during the war in Gaza, Jews got attacked even inside the French synagogues. In 2017 Kabil Traore killed a neighboring French Jew, Sarah Halimi, shouting "Allahu Akbar". But to the justice system of Paris, the barbarian is not responsible as he smoked cannabis. If you throw someone down with your car after drinking, they condemn you to a more severe sentence. If you throw a Jew from the window after smoking cannabis, they send you free. The French justice system ruled that the 27-year old man from Mali could not be held criminally responsible for the murder of Halimi. As Traore beat Halimi, he was heard screaming "Shaitan" (Arabic for "Satan") and a few weeks beforehand Traore had called Halimi's daughter a "dirty Jewess" in their building elevator in the 11th arrondissement of Paris. Francis Kalifat, president of the official representative body of French Jews, called the view of the French court "shocking". Because France - where several Jews have been killed and maimed, where thousands fled abroad and changed their city to avoid being attacked on the street - has officially betrayed the Jewish people. The French cesspit is flooded. The Jews will leave the country or become invisible, France will be Islamized and it will deserve it. They are rotten inside.

CANADIAN JEWS MOST TARGETED GROUP FOR HATE CRIMES: Data released by Statistics Canada last week finds that Canadian Jews were the most targeted group for hate crimes in 2018, a trend continuing from the previous two years. In total, police across Canada reported 347 hate crimes targeting Jews in 2018. Anti-Jewish hate crimes amounted to 19% of the national total, even though Jews account for only about 1% of the Canadian population. Responding to the findings, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies CEO Avi Benlolo said, "It's 2019 and it's outrageous that the Canadian Jewish community is still being targeted by hate crimes after more than 250 years of integration into this beautiful country. Our effort and investment is focused on bringing Canadians together who share the same values of freedom, democracy, and human rights," said Benlolo.

SPATE OF ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS ACROSS USA CAUSES CONCERN: Anti-Semitic posters, flyers, and graffiti have littered different parts of the United States over the past week, with most of them stating Holocaust denial and preaching neo-Nazi sentiments. The most recent incident was in Santa Monica: Anti-Semitic graffiti saying the "Holocaust is a lie" was found on a well-known bicycle path in the city, and on a bridge alongside the words, "Why have Jews been kicked out of 109 countries?" and "Nationalism or extinction." A police report was filed by AJC Los Angeles with the Santa Monica Police Department and the city has removed the graffiti. On Wed. 24 July 2019, neo-Nazi flyers denying that six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust captioned with the words "Is that a challenge? We wish!" and depicting a skeleton dressed in an SS uniform were found in two areas of Oakland County, Michigan. One of the flyers was stuck onto the

gates of the Jewish cemetery in Birmingham. Similar flyers have also been found over the last few weeks along street posts on the Royal Oaks and Birmingham border. In Cleveland meanwhile, a poster denying the Holocaust was placed at the entrance to the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage that read: "Holocaust = Fake News." Similar signs were also found at a Massachusetts synagogue and at two other Jewish centers in other states last week, with the words "Holocaust = Fake News," and captioned below: "The people that lied about soap and lampshades are lying about gas chambers and ovens." Police are investigating these incidents, as well as the similarities of the cases in the different states as being possibly connected.

NETANYAHU: HERZL REJECTED A HALAKHIC STATE: PM Binyamin Netanyahu took part last week in the memorial ceremony for Theodore Herzl, the founder of modern political Zionism, on Mount Herzl. "Herzl understood very well that Judaism is both a religion and a nation," Netanyahu said in his speech. "On the one hand, he recognized and respected the vitality of the Jewish religion, and on the other hand, he wanted a nation-state of all its citizens, Jews and non-Jews alike. I want to emphasize that he was in favor of the Jewish state but rejected a state that was Halakhic. We continue to maintain this required balance: the love of Torah and the law of the state. When Herzl came to rest at the top of our capital, there were those who said, 'We saw him in our mind's eye when he smiled,' because Herzl came home to our flourishing country," Netanyahu said. "We continue to follow his path - with a sense of common destiny, and with the aspiration to secure a common future for all parts of our people, for all the citizens of our country. If Herzl sees our achievements, I am sure that his smile has been broadened."

ISRAELI COMPANY GROWING BONES IN THE LABORATORY: Haifa-based biotechnology company Bonus BioGroup has developed a unique technology that promises to revolutionize the future of bone healing and is delivering promising clinical results. Founded by Dr. Shai Meretzki, the company is behind the world's first viable human bone graft manufacturing facility, where bone grafts are constructed outside of the human body from the patient's own live tissue. BonoFill, the company's unique method for growing a three-dimensional and high-density bone graft requires the isolation of a unique kind of cell from the tissue with the ability to repopulate. From that cell, a new bone is grown in a laboratory bioreactor mimicking the body's physiological micro-environment. Within two weeks, a live and viable bone has grown and can be implanted back into the patient. "Because every patient gets his own tissue and own cells back, the safety profile of this kind of therapy is very high," said Meretzki. "There is no immune reaction to the implant, never mind rejection. The body doesn't know that the cells underwent a short cycle of two weeks outside the human body, and we see a very nice recovery and complete healing of the bone gap." Bonus BioGroup's technology, which boasts a long list of patents including exclusivity for the manufacturing and commercialization of live bone grafts in the USA is currently undergoing two Phase II clinical trials in Israel for maxillofacial and orthopedic applications.

HOUSE DENOUNCES BDS MOVEMENT IN SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR USA-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP: The House overwhelmingly voted to denounce the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement this week, taking a bipartisan stand in support for the USA-Israel relationship. The resolution, which condemns the BDS movement for promoting "principles of collective guilt, mass punishment, and group isolation," passed on a 398-17 vote. Democrat and Republican lawmakers alike took to the House floor on Tue. 23 July 2019 to praise the bipartisan resolution and warn about the threat BDS poses to Israel and Jewish Americans that support the state. Democrats struggled earlier this year as Republicans attempted to label them the party of anti-Semitism after Rep. Ilhan Omar made a number of controversial comments that many members of her own party considered anti-Semitic, including an incident where she accused one Democratic lawmaker of having "dual-loyalty" toward the USA and Israel. Ms. Omar and fellow "squad" member Rep. Rashida Tlaib — vocal supporters of the BDS and critics of the Israeli government — pushed back against the resolution, arguing it violated free speech. Ms. Tlaib even tweeted it was "unconstitutional." Members on both sides of aisle rejected those arguments, saying the resolution notes the importance of free speech and the right to protest for freedoms, but that the BDS movement crosses a line. "It is an American

value to express legitimate reasonable criticism of any government in the world, including our own,” Rep. Lee Zeldin said. “The BDS movement is different. And we must reject the blatant anti-Semitism injected in BDS and the delegitimizing of Israel.”

BRITAIN SAYS IT IS PLANNING EUROPEAN-LED PROTECTION FORCE IN PERSIAN GULF: British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt this week said the UK wanted to establish a European-led maritime protection force for the Gulf. “We will now seek to put together a European-led maritime protection mission to support the safe passage of both crew and cargo in this vital region,” Hunt told parliament after Iranian authorities seized a British-flagged tanker in the Gulf on Friday, 19 July 2019. “We will seek to establish this mission as quickly as possible,” he said. Hunt described Friday’s incident as an act of “state piracy”. Hunt also said that a British warship, HMS Duncan that is being dispatched to the region, would arrive by 29 July 2019, joining the HMS Montrose currently in the Gulf. According to the foreign secretary, all British-flagged ships would be asked to give the British authorities notice when they plan to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, where Friday’s incident happened, “to enable us to offer the best protection we can.” But he added: “It is not possible for the Royal Navy to provide escorts for every single ship or indeed eliminate all risks of piracy”.

IRAN SAY IT’S WATCHING ALL USA SHIPS IN GULF, KEEPING RECORD OF THEIR MOVEMENTS: The head of Iran’s navy said Tue. 22 July 2019 that Tehran is observing all USA ships in the Gulf region and keeping an archive of their movements. “We observe all enemy ships, particularly those of America, point-by-point from their origin until the moment they enter the region,” said Rear Admiral Hossein Khandazi. “We have complete images and a large archive of the daily and moment-by-moment traffic of the coalition forces and America,” Khandazi added, noting that the images of the vessels were captured using drones. Khandazi’s statement came amid elevated tensions in the Gulf after Iranian authorities seized a British-flagged tanker there on Friday 19 July 2019.

SAUDI MINISTER SAYS IRAN’S ACTIONS ARE UNACCEPTABLE: Saudi Arabia's minister of state for foreign affairs on Sunday 21 July 2019, condemned Iran's seizure of a British flagged tanker in the Strait of Hormuz and urged the international community to take action to deter such "unacceptable" behavior. "Any attack on the freedom of navigation is a violation of international law," Adel Aljubeir said in a Twitter post. "Iran must realize its acts of intercepting ships, including most recently the British ship, is completely unacceptable. The world community must take action to deter such behavior," he added.

ISRAEL BRIEFED ON USA NAVAL RESPONSE TO IRAN’S AGGRESSION IN PERSIAN GULF: An Israeli representative was present at a briefing on Sunday 21 July 2019 by USA Special Representative for Iran, Brian Hook, who provided information on the USA naval-defense operation dubbed "Operation Sentinel" being undertaken in response to recent Iranian aggression in the Strait of Hormuz. "American representatives are working with elements from the Middle East, Europe, and Asia to formulate the details" of the plan, USA Central Command said in a statement. "Operation Sentinel" is a "multinational maritime effort" aimed at protecting ships in the vulnerable waterway between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, according to the statement. It is still not clear which countries will join the effort. In an interview with Israel Radio, Regional Cooperation Minister Tzachi Hanegbi spoke of the possibility of a confrontation between Israel and Iran over the United States' and Britain's reaction to Tehran's recent actions in the Persian Gulf, including the seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker on Friday 19 July 2019. Hanegbi said that over the past two years, Israel had "beaten the Iranians hundreds of times in Syria. Sometimes we admit it, and sometimes foreign publications expose it." He added that "if the Iranians are very limited in their responses, it's not because they do not have capabilities, it's because we are very firm about our national security. The Iranians have not retreated from the plans to establish themselves in Syria," said Hanegbi, "and this campaign has not ended yet, but they know exactly who to not mess with and who can be upset."

TRUMP SAYS CHANCE OF MAKING A DEAL WITH IRAN IS DWINDLING: USA President Donald Trump said Mon. 22 July 2019 that chances of negotiating with Iran were dwindling, as he cited increasing tensions in the Gulf and blasted Tehran as the world's top "state of terror." The president cited a series of recent conflicts involving the Islamic Republic, including the downing of USA and Iranian drones and, most recently, Tehran's announcement that it arrested 17 people in connection to a CIA spy ring, a claim Trump rejected as "lies." "Frankly it's getting harder for me to want to make a deal with Iran, because they behave very badly," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "I'll tell you it could go either way, very easily," Trump added. "And I'm OK either way it goes." He also said the United States was "ready for the absolute worst. We are very geared up. Iran is the number one state of terror in the world," Trump said.

OREGON TO REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO TEACH ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST: Oregon Gov. Kate Brown this week signed a new law that mandates public schools in the state teach students about genocide and the atrocities committed during the Holocaust, joining a dozen other states with similar legislation. The bill was inspired by Holocaust survivor Alter Wiener, who spent three years in concentration camps, including Auschwitz. Wiener, who was killed in a traffic accident in Dec. 2018, had tirelessly advocated for Holocaust education in schools.

ISRAELI TEAM WINS SIX MEDALS AT MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD: A team of Israeli high school students won six medals at the International Mathematical Olympiad held during July 2019 in Bath, in the UK. Ido Karshon won a gold medal; Lior Hadassi, Shvo Regavim, and Roe Sinai each brought home a silver medal; and Shahar Friedman and Itay Yehuda won bronze medals. The Israeli squad finished in 15th place out of 112 competing countries with an overall score of 156 points. The USA and China took joint first place with 227 points. Education Minister Rafi Peretz congratulated the team on its success, which came a week after Israel won five medals at the International Physics Olympiad held in Tel Aviv. "The additional achievement of our math team is a source of great pride for the education systems and for Israel," Peretz said in a statement. "Mathematics, queen of the sciences, is the engine that advances science and technology. The achievement continues to put Israel at the forefront and to ensure its qualitative advantage also for the future. I congratulate the winning students - well done to them and the team escorting them."



*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)*

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