

# ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update August 15, 2019*** **(14<sup>th</sup> Av, 5779)**



## **[For the Yachad Report Newsletter For August 2019](#)**

**ISRAEL BARS ENTRY TO BDS ADVOCATES CONGRESSWOMEN TALIB AND OMAR:** PM Benjamin Netanyahu said last week: "No country in the world respects America and the American Congress more than the State of Israel. As a free and vibrant democracy, Israel is open to critics and criticism, with one exception: Israeli law prohibits the entry into Israel of those who call for and work to impose boycotts on Israel, as do other democracies that prohibit the entry of people who seek to harm the country. Congresswomen Tlaib and Omar are leading activists in promoting the legislation of boycotts against Israel in the American Congress. Only a few days ago, we received their itinerary for their visit to Israel, which revealed that they planned a visit whose sole objective is to strengthen the boycott against us and deny Israel's legitimacy. For instance: they listed the destination of their trip as Palestine and did not request to meet any Israeli officials, either from the government or the opposition. The sole purpose of their visit is to harm Israel and increase incitement against it. Therefore, the Minister of Interior has decided not to allow their visit, and I, as Prime Minister, support his decision.

**ISRAEL'S ARYEH DERI: 'TALIB'S HATRED FOR ISRAEL OVERCOMES HER LOVE FOR HER GRANDMOTHER':** Israeli Interior Minister Aryeh Deri said last weekend he would allow Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib to enter Israel on humanitarian grounds after Tlaib submitted a letter requesting to be allowed in to visit her elderly Palestinian grandmother in Judea & Samaria. "I would like to request admittance to Israel in order to visit my relatives, and specifically my grandmother, who is in her 90s and lives in Beit Ur al-Fouqa," Tlaib wrote in her letter to Deri. "This could be my last opportunity to see her. I will respect any restrictions and will not promote boycotts against Israel during my visit." Deri's office said he had decided to allow Tlaib into the country based on her letter and "expressed hope that she will live up to her promise." In spite of the Ministry of Interior's willingness to allow Tlaib entrance into Israel, and in spite of Talib's promises to limit the focus of her visit to family, she, hours later, withdrew her request saying, that visiting her

grandmother under 'oppressive conditions' would stand against everything she believes in. Deri responded by saying, "Apparently her hate for Israel overcomes her love for her grandmother."

**AMBASSADOR FRIEDMAN'S STATEMENT ON ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DECISION TO DENY ENTRY TO TLAIB/ OMAR:** USA Ambassador to Israel David Friedman said last week: "The United States supports and respects the decision of the Government of Israel to deny entry to the Tlaib/Omar Delegation. The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel is not free speech. Rather, it is no less than economic warfare designed to delegitimize and ultimately destroy the Jewish State. Israel properly has enacted laws to bar entry of BDS activists under the circumstances present here, and it has every right to protect its borders against those activists in the same manner as it would bar entrants with more conventional weapons. Initially, Israel had indicated that it would accept the Tlaib/Omar Delegation, and use their visit as an opportunity to engage with and educate the delegation members with regard to Israel's vibrant and robust democracy, its religious tolerance and its ethnic diversity. Unfortunately, the itinerary of the Tlaib/Omar Delegation leaves no room for that opportunity. This trip, pure and simple, is nothing more than an effort to fuel the BDS engine that Congresswomen Tlaib and Omar so vigorously support."

**OMAR AND TLAIB RIGHTLY BLOCKED FROM VISITING 'NON-EXISTENT' COUNTRY PALESTINE:** At first blush, Israel's decision to bar Reps. Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib looked like a mistake. It didn't help that PM Netanyahu had initially signaled the two Democrats could visit despite their support for the BDS movement, which Israel has outlawed. When it became clear that Netanyahu reversed his decision at President Trump's urging, the situation appeared to go from bad to worse. Both the United States and Israel looked to have blundered. Or so I thought. Then facts and history had their say. Now, I believe Trump and Netanyahu made the right move. They had no good options and chose the lesser of two evils. First, the facts are becoming clearer. Omar and Tlaib, we now know, rejected invitations to travel with other congressional members of both parties. Trips were organized by AIPAC to give new members briefings on security issues and include political perspectives from the government as well as critics. The congressional groups there last week, for example, met with Israeli leaders and Palestinians in Judea & Samaria. Why wasn't that good enough for Tlaib and Omar, the first two Muslim women elected to Congress? In addition to wanting to go alone, they reportedly refused any government briefings and Netanyahu said their itinerary mentioned only "Palestine," a country that doesn't exist and a word often used to deny Israel's right to exist. According to National Review, the group that planned Omar and Tlaib's trip, MIFTAH, runs a Web site that publishes anti-Semitic articles and celebrates Palestinian terrorists, several of whom murdered Jewish children. The link guarantees that the trip would have been a nonstop assault on Israel. It also could have led to violence. The two planned to visit the Al-Aqsa Mosque, located atop the compound known as the Noble Sanctuary to Muslims and Temple Mount to Jews, where there were clashes last week between Israeli security forces and Palestinians. Omar and Tlaib likely would have made provocative statements there, leading some Israelis to fear a larger round of violence. Why take that chance? History proves that Israel is often held to a double standard, and this case is no different. Virtually every nation bars entry to those who wish it harm, yet it's an international incident when Israel does it. Denunciations from the usual suspects are a reminder that Israel would have gotten no credit if it had opened its doors. Tlaib and Omar were not going in good faith. Why is the burden on Israel to welcome them? Put another way, when did suicide become a virtue? The fact that the two are members of Congress adds a complication, but not one big enough to overcome their long virulence and the potential for violence. They hate Israel and have made anti-Semitic statements. Moreover, the BDS movement they support is not ultimately about borders. It's about Israel's existence.

**SEN. MCSALLY BLASTS OMAR, TLAIB'S 'DANGEROUS' RHETORIC AND ACTIONS:** Sen. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., accused Reps. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., and Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., of pushing "dangerous" ideas about Israel last week and called on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, R-Calif., to push back against their rhetoric. "Their actions and their words have been dangerous; their anti-Semitism and their support to the BDS movement. I mean they personally led an effort to ensure the House of Representatives

couldn't pass a bill to condemn anti-Semitism," said McSally. "This is the wrong direction. We need to stand closely with Israel and not allow their dangerous ideas to be fueling any of the rhetoric that is against the Jewish people against Israel and supporting the economic BDS [Boycott, Divest, Sanction] movement and others." House Speaker Pelosi said last week that both President Trump and the Israeli government debased their offices when they pushed back on plans by the two freshman congresswomen to visit the Middle Eastern ally. Arizona Senator McSally stated that she hoped Pelosi would stand up against Omar and Tlaib, call out their "dangerous rhetoric," and support Israel.

**ISRAEL HAS BEEN BARRING LAWMAKERS OF FRIENDLY NATIONS FOR YEARS:** When Israel announced that it would deny entry to Reps. Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, the decision struck many as an unprecedented step. However, this measure has taken place a number of times before, when Israel's political enemies have attempted to enter the gates. Just last month, Fouad Ahmad Assadi, a Lebanon-born lawmaker for Spain's ruling Socialist Party was denied entry at Ben Gurion Airport. Israel cited unspecified security reasons. In 2017, Israel barred the entry of a lawmaker from France's National Assembly — the lower house in parliament — for the far-left France Unbowed movement. The lawmaker, Clémentine Autain said she was coming to meet Marwan Barghouti, a PLO commander serving multiple life sentences in Israel for the murder of dozens of people in terrorist attacks. That same year, Israel kept out two French members of the European Parliament, Pascal Durand, and Patrick Le Hyaric. The Interior Ministry cited the French lawmakers' support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel. Israeli law defined BDS calls as grounds for a lawsuit in 2011. In 2018, a Ghanaian lawmaker, Ras Mubarak, who has called Israel a "rogue state," said he was denied entry into the country. He had been planning to meet politicians in the Palestinian Authority. Neither the European Parliament nor European governments whose lawmakers were banned from entering Israel have been very vocal about it. That may be because European countries often bar entry to foreign lawmakers deemed to be troublemakers — including from fellow EU member states and other friendly nations.

**INDIA: OVER TEN THOUSAND RALLIES IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL:** Last week, braving extremely inclement weather and floods, SinghaBahini, a grassroots organization in India, organized a major pro-Israel rally in Kolkata, India. The Kolkata rally saw between 10 -12,000 people come together to attend. With bumper-to-bumper traffic and roads clogged due to sudden heavy downpour and floods, many more who wanted to attend the rally could not make it to the site. President of SinghaBahini Devdutta Maji, who organized the rally, said, "Hindus for generations have been facing genocides. This must end. They need to see inspiration in the tiny beautiful nation of Israel, on how they stop terrorism on their own soil and support their own people." Devdutta Maji, who visited Israel in 2018 and was hosted by Israel-based organizations and activists, told Jerusalem media sources, "Today's rally will help to build on the foundations we have created for the India Israel relationship on a people to people basis." The relations between India and Israel have shown a positive turn under the leadership of Israeli PM Netanyahu and Indian PM Narendra Modi. With strong trade ties, people to people contact and rallies in support of Israel as seen recently, ties between India and Israel are expected to strengthen further.

**POMPEO ON IRAN: TIME IS TICKING:** USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Mon. 12 Aug. 2019 urged the international community to take action against Iran's support for terrorism. He noted that international agreements restricting Iran will end in 15 months. "The Islamic regime in Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terror. For over 40 years their malign behavior and support for terrorist proxies has spread uncurbed. The implementation of the JCPOA, informally known as the '2015 Iran Nuclear Deal' has placed even more resources and money at the regime's disposal, furthering the reach and aggression of their malign activities. This is why the United States left the JCPOA and implemented decisive sanctions to curb the regime's ability to fund terror," said Pompeo. "However, time is running out on international agreements restraining the Iranian regime. For example, the head of the brutal Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Qasem Soleimani, will be allowed to travel on 18 October 2020. Soon after, the Iranian regime will also be free to sell

weapons to anyone, including terrorist proxies, and countries like Russia and China will be able to sell the Iranian regime tanks, missiles, and air defense equipment. This could start a new arms race in the Middle East and further destabilize the region and the world,” he warned. “The international community must stand together against the Iranian regime’s support for terror. Time is ticking,” concluded Pompeo.

**GERMAN EXPORTS TO IRAN DROP BY HALF IN FIRST 6 MONTHS DUE TO USA SANCTIONS:** USA sanctions took a heavy toll on Germany’s export trade with the Islamic Republic of Iran during the first six months of 2019, causing a fall of 48%, according to a Reuters review of new statistics this week. The collapse in business suggests companies are scaling back business ties with Tehran to avoid trouble with the United States after Washington reimposed sanctions. The USA classifies Iran’s regime as the leading international state-sponsor of terrorism. Sales to Iran plunged by 48% to 678 million euros from January through June, according to data from the Federal Statistics Office. Imports from Iran declined by 43% to 110 million euros. “The fact that trade between Iran and Germany has collapsed that massively is not a big surprise,” the BGA trade association said. It pointed to the extra-territorial character of recent USA sanctions, which means that companies from other countries are also punished if they do business with Iran. “German companies are forced to choose between their market activities in Iran and the USA. It’s clear which market is preferred,” BGA said.

**ISRAEL PLANNING ‘SECURITY WALL’ ON GAZA BORDER:** Israel’s defense establishment has decided to build another barrier in the Gaza envelope, this time a security wall against infiltration of terrorists into towns and communities located near the Gaza border. According to a report on Mon. 12 Aug. 2019, the wall will be six meters high and nine kilometers in length. It will run adjacent to localities in the Gaza envelope. The wall is supposed to be another barrier in the space between the Gaza border and the localities, which should delay terrorists during an attempted infiltration if they are able to cross the border on their way to carry out an attack. The cost of the project is tens of millions of shekels. Discussions are taking place between the Ministry of Defense and the Prime Minister's Office, focusing on finding a budget source for the construction of the wall.

**IDF TASKED WITH DEALING WITH POST-TRAUMA IN RECRUITS FROM GAZA BORDER COMMUNITIES:** Military and health authorities are now having to accept that a new generation of soldiers from communities bordering the Hamas-controlled enclave, who grew up under a constant threat from Gaza is plagued by post-trauma even before they've begun their military service. Eighteen-year-old Israelis, residents of the Gaza border communities are enlisting in military service, carry with them the weight of a lifetime under rocket fire. Some are so severely affected that they are unable to carry out their duties as soldiers, mostly in the demanding combat units. The scope of the problem has just now begun to come to light as parents of new recruits turned to mental health services with reports of their children's difficulties. During high school they still manage to keep their feelings bottled up," said Nuki Goldfisher, who runs the support for young inductees in the Kibbutz Movement. "But as they begin to deal with the challenges of the military, we often see they cannot carry out their duties and often drop out." Now the IDF and the government are being called on to address the problem and find a way to help the first generation of soldiers who were born into a reality of shelling, shelters, and fear, which has had a lasting effect on their entire lives.

**EUROPEAN JEWISH CONGRESS: CLOSING OF VILNIUS SYNAGOGUE ‘EXTREMELY OMINOUS SIGN’:** The European Jewish Congress (EJC) has called on the Lithuanian Government to take stronger measures and appropriate action to protect the Jewish community after its leaders made the decision to close its capital city's sole synagogue and community center following threats and a rise in anti-Semitism. “It is inconceivable that the Jewish community feels increasingly threatened and is not receiving the requisite security measures to allow it to go about its regular existence,” Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the EJC said. “We call on the authorities to take all necessary measures to protect the Jewish community, including taking a tougher line against those that threaten it like neo-Nazis.” The rise in anti-Semitism against the Jewish

community comes after the Vilnius municipality decided to remove a memorial plaque for a Lithuanian general killed by the Soviets who was a Nazi sympathizer and rename the street. “It is vital that those who collaborated with a genocidal regime are not celebrated or commemorated, regardless of whatever else they may have done,” said Dr. Kantor. “Siding with and supporting a regime responsible for the death of six million Jews should ensure that person is beyond honor or tribute on any level. We welcome the decision by the Vilnius authorities,” Dr. Kantor continued. “However, the fact that it has ended in the Jewish community shuttering its institutions, including a synagogue, for the first time since the Second World War, should be an extremely ominous sign and should be added motivation for the government to adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards anti-Semitism.”

### **MORE THAN 100 TIRES BELONGING TO JEWS SLASHED IN HEAVILY ORTHODOX**

**LAKWOOD, NJ:** More than 100 car tires have been slashed in the heavily Jewish town of Lakewood, New Jersey, over the past several days. All of the cars involved were reported to belong to or be used by Jews. Security footage showed a person in a hoodie using a knife to slash tires. Lakewood is the home to a large ultra-Orthodox, Jewish community. Police are investigating the incidents as hate crimes. Lakewood, which is known as a center of Haredi Orthodox life in the United States, has seen its population boom in recent decades, from around 60,000 in 2000 to more than 100,000 as of 2017. Local officials have predicted that by 2030, the number would more than double.

### **MULTINATIONAL NAVAL EXERCISE SIMULATES AFTERMATH OF MAJOR EARTHQUAKE:**

The recent five-day "Mighty Waves" multinational naval exercise off Israel's Haifa coast simulated the aftermath of a major earthquake. The drill also focused on the recovery of casualties, including those underwater, and the transfer of humanitarian aid. Hundreds of troops participated on ships from Israel, the USA, Greece, and France. Cyprus, Canada, Ireland, Germany, Britain and Chile, and NATO, sent observers.

### **ISRAEL EYES NEXT-GEN SATELLITE LAUNCH TO SCRUTINIZE UNIVERSE UNDER NEW LIGHT:**

The Weizmann Institute of Science and the Israel Space Agency will work together to create a new “micro-satellite” projected to launch in 2023 that will study cosmic explosions and black holes, observing a wide part of the sky and operating in ultraviolet light, where processes are normally invisible. The satellite, known as ULTRASAT and weighing just 353 pounds will carry a telescope “designed to observe the Universe as it has not been seen it before,” the institute said. Its tasks will include looking at the formation process of dense neutron stars that merge and emit gravitational waves, how super-massive black holes rule their neighborhoods, how stars explode, where the heavy elements in the universe come from, and the properties of stars that could have habitable planets. All of these processes happen in visible light and in ultraviolet light, and also sometimes emit ultraviolet light. The idea is to see processes that have not been discerned to date. “This unique configuration will help us answer some of the big questions in astrophysics,” said Weizmann Institute’s Prof. Eli Waxman, who is behind the ULTRASAT project. The new type of scientific satellite will be built in Israel over the next four years, together with the Science Ministry. Start on the project is scheduled for Sept. 2019.

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