

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update August 29, 2019 **(28th Av, 5779)**

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The image shows two items: on the left, the cover of 'The Complete Jewish Study Bible' with the subtitle 'INSIGHTS FOR JEWS & CHRISTIANS' and the tagline 'Illuminating the Jewishness of God's Word'; on the right, a silver menorah pendant.

For the Yachad Report Newsletter For September 2019

IDF ON HIGH ALERT AFTER THWARTING IRAN'S PLANNED "KILLER" DRONE ATTACKS: Anticipating a possible retaliation following IDF aircraft strikes on Iranian targets in Syria last Saturday night, 23 August 2019, the Israeli Defense Forces were on high alert the following day. The mission was carried out following intelligence reports that Iran was planning to launch armed drones at northern Israel. The strikes targeted members of Tehran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force, in addition to Shiite fighters who were planning a "kamikaze" attack by sending unmanned aerial vehicles armed with explosives into northern Israel. An IDF spokesman said the Iranian assaults had been plotted for several months on a high level in conjunction with the Quds Force which is IRGC's elite unit responsible for Iranian military operations abroad. The IDF in preparation for possible retaliation has strengthened positions near the border with Syria, deploying to the area several intelligence units, air force squadrons, and air defenses batteries.

Israeli PM Binyamin Netanyahu early Sunday morning, 24 Aug. 2019 held a meeting at military headquarters to discuss the escalation with the IDF's chief-of-staff and other high-ranking defense officials. Netanyahu applauded the army's "major operational effort," and said again that: "Iran has no immunity anywhere. Our forces work against Iranian aggression in every region." Last weekend's airstrikes took place in the context of rising tensions across the region, from Yemen to Iraq. These include conflicts in the Persian Gulf where the UK has said it is sending a new warship this week. Iran openly brags that it dominates the Persian Gulf.

CONTINUED PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE ON GAZA STRIP BORDER: Each Friday, Israel's southern border residents and its military forces face thousands of Palestinian Arabs filled with hatred and weapons of violence along the Gaza Strip border. Last Friday, 23 August 2019, some 9,000 Palestinian Arabs showed up along the Gaza Fence, an increase in the number of rioters compared to recent weeks. The rioters, as they do

every week, threw grenades, firebombs, and rocks towards IDF soldiers stationed in the area. The soldiers responded by using riot dispersal means. At the same time, a fire broke out in the Eshkol Regional Council in southern Israel and is believed to have been caused by an incendiary balloon fired from Gaza. Violence continued on Sunday, 25 August 2019 as a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip fell in the South injuring one woman. The MDA also provided seven people in Sderot with medical treatment.

ISRAEL MOURNS THE LOSS OF 17- YEAR-OLD GIRL IN WEEKEND TERRORIST BOMB

ATTACK: Last weekend Israel was again struck with tragedy and mourning as an Israeli family out for a hike on Friday morning, 23 Aug. 2019 was hit by a terrorist bomb planted at a popular natural spring not far from the city of Modiin. Rina Shnerb, a 17-year-old resident of the central Israel town of Lod, was pronounced dead at the scene, and her father and 19-year-old brother were airlifted to Jerusalem in serious condition. Lying in his hospital bed hours after the attack Rabbi Eitan told reporters that he gave his daughter Rina a last kiss in the moments following her death and told her, "We will be strong." On Friday afternoon Rina was buried in her home city of Lod. Hundreds of people gathered around her shroud-covered body weeping. Israeli security forces have since continued to conduct a massive manhunt for the perpetrators of what local residents consider to be a "serious escalation." This type of attack is highly unusual and has raised concerns among residents that more devices have been placed at other hiking spots in Judea and Samaria. On Sunday morning 25 August 2019, a senior physician in the intensive care unit at Jerusalem's Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital said that the condition of Eitan, the father, was good and that the son's condition had also improved, and was being defined as mild to moderate.

PALESTINIAN LEADERS PRAISE TERRORISTS WHO CARRIED OUT ATTACK THAT

KILLED 17-YEAR-OLD: Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh welcomed last Friday's 23 August 2019 bomb attack as "a heroic operation." He praised the attackers as "sons of Jerusalem and this holy land." Likewise, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad said: "We welcome the attack and regard it as a natural response to what the [so called] occupation forces are doing to the Palestinian people." Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority and its chairman, Mahmoud Abbas, have refrained from condemning the terrorist assault which killed 17-year-old Rina Shnerb and injured her father and brother. Israeli security forces arrested three men in Judea & Samaria as part of a large-scale manhunt for the terrorists behind the tragic bombing media sources reported on Saturday 24 August 2019. Israel's Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon has called on the UN Security Council to denounce Rina Shnerb's murder in the bombing at Ein Bubin. "Like previous terror attacks, today's attack also targeted innocent Israeli civilians and has been glorified on Palestinian social networks," Danon wrote.

ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UN BLAMES PA FOR FRIDAY'S TERRORIST BOMB

ATTACK: Israel's ambassador to the UN Danny Danon, placed the full blame for last Friday's 23 Aug. 2019 terrorist attack that killed 17-year-old Rina Shnerb on the Palestinian Authority. He accused the PA of maintaining an ongoing policy of educating and incentivizing its youth to kill Jews throughout Israel. "The PA glorifies terrorists, rewarding their horrific actions with guaranteed salaries and renaming streets, schools and town squares in their honor," said Danon. The UN's Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nikolay Mladenov, tweeted in response to the bombing: "Shocking, heinous! There is nothing 'heroic' in murder! NOTHING! It is a despicable, cowardly act! Terror must be unequivocally condemned by ALL." David Freedman, USA ambassador to Israel, also expressed his dismay, saying on social media that there are "No words to describe the sadness of the moment as we grieve and pray for the injured to recover. The international community must join the fight against terror by condemning not only the murder but also the culture of incitement that led to it and salaries to murderers," he added. Earlier, USA Special Envoy to the Middle East Jason Greenblatt also responded to the murderous bombing. "Another savage attack by Palestinian terrorists kills an Israeli teenager enjoying time with her family. This isn't the path to peace, just endless suffering. Our prayers are with her family especially her father & brother also wounded in the attack," tweeted Greenblatt.

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY NO LONGER MENTIONED ON USA STATE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE: The USA State Department has removed from its official website of areas and countries, all mention of the 'Palestinian Authority,' and of 'Palestinian Territories'. Until recently, 'Palestinians' appeared on the site under the name 'Palestinian Authority' and before that the 'Palestinian Territories'. During the past months, there has been a marked reduction of the Palestinian status on the USA side, with the State Department ordering the removal of any reference that included the word 'occupied territories' in reference to the Palestinian Arabs. All existence of the Palestinian Authority has now been deleted from the official website representing the USA State Department. Last year and earlier this year the USA drastically cut aid to Palestinians in Judea & Samaria and Gaza, in a step linked to anti-terrorism legislation. Each day the PA pays millions of shekels to jailed terrorists, including those who have murdered Israelis. The families of these terrorists also receive large monthly stipends. The Palestinian Authority likewise honors and sets up community monuments to those who have carried out major terrorist attacks against Jewish Israelis. Streets are named after favorite terrorists, and youth from the cradle are encouraged to embrace violence against the Jewish state. It seems some nations are growing weary of the lie that anything stemming from such governments is worthy of their taxpayer's donations or sympathetic attention.

PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT CALLS FOR A MILLION MARTYRS TO MARCH ON JERUSALEM: In a recent rant carried out days ago, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called on the entire Palestinian population to form an army and to march on Jerusalem. He claimed that "millions of fighters, along with the Arab, Islamic and Christian nations will march against Jewish Jerusalem," as some 8,000 or so Palestinians who attended the rally near Ramallah began to chant, "To Jerusalem, we march, martyrs by the millions!" Abbas also stated his refusal to call Palestinians who murder and maim innocent Israelis, "terrorists". In the same breath, he assured the crowd that jailed Palestinian terrorists and the families of suicide bombers will continue to receive salaries from the PA because they are "sacred" to the Palestinians. Last week Abbas canned all of his advisers amid a major budgetary crisis following USA President Donald Trump's decision to cut off hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to PA headquarters in Ramallah. Abbas wanted to be sure there would be enough money in the coffers to pay the "sacred" Palestinian Murderers and Co. Additionally, the Palestinian Authority recently decided to make things worse for its people by reducing by half the salaries of thousands of civil servants to compensate for its refusal to accept any of the \$1.2 billion in annual taxes distributed to Ramallah by Israel. Despite the fact that much of the world still considers Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas and his gang to be a valid peace partner for Israel, the records prove time and again that there is nothing in his heart or the heart of the Palestinian society that has to do with a desire for peace, prosperity, and cooperation with the Jewish state.

TRUMP: 'SORRY, I DON'T BUY REP. TLAIB'S TEARS': Last week, House Democrats Ilhan Omar, of Minnesota, and Rashida Tlaib, of Michigan, were stopped from entering the gates of Israel due to their high-profile attempts to boycott Israel. They had no friendly appointments to visit Israeli officials nor were they hoping to understand the plight of Israel's government as it deals with Islamist terror daily at its borders and in its midst. They weren't planning to investigate both sides of an ongoing conflict or even to take in some of the important sites, such as the Jerusalem Holocaust Museum. Omar and Tlaib had their own agenda; to promote boycotts and sanctions against the Jewish state, to be outspoken with their anti-Israel bias along the way and to visit some of Israel's most politically and religiously sensitive sites – spots often troubled with outbreaks of Islamic violence – where they could potentially cause more of the same.

Additionally, these two were being sponsored by an organization which not only supports BDS but is known for anti-Semitic comments and for supporting terror. Palestinian-based organization Miftah, which has terror ties and in the past promoted anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, was partially sponsoring the trip. This week Tlaib dodged responsibility for the partnership when asked about Miftah at a press conference. "We're not the ones who chose the organization," Tlaib said. "A USA-based sponsor organization chose it. Tlaib's chief of staff did not return an email inquiring which members pointed Tlaib and Omar to Miftah. Tlaib even broke

down crying at one point in the press conference. A day later President Donald Trump slammed Tlaib on Twitter. He wrote, "Sorry, I don't buy Rep. Tlaib's tears. I have watched her violence, craziness and, most importantly, WORDS, for far too long. Now tears? She hates Israel and all Jewish people. She is an anti-Semite. She and her 3 friends are the new face of the Democrat Party. Live with it!"

A BRIEF REVIEW: "SEALTH JIHAD": "Stealth Jihad" is the financial, cultural, and religious subversion of a country until it dominates the political and social life of that nation. Stealth jihadists have already become ensconced in the American political and media landscapes. This effort aims not to bring America to its knees through attacks with guns or bombs, but to subvert the country from within--by gradually Islamizing America. The ultimate goal, the stealth jihadists themselves declare, is nothing less than the adoption of Islamic law in the United States. The USA is a target for furthering unarmed as well as violent Islamic extremism.

ABBAS PREFERS TO PAY TERRORIST PRISONERS RATHER THAN HIS ADVISERS: PA President Mahmoud Abbas: "Oh dear, oh dear, how shall we keep paying our murderers, stabbers, bombers, and rammers sitting in Israeli jails, plus their families on the sidelines? I have an idea, we have already halved the salaries of our hardworking civil servants, now I will fire all of my advisers. That way we can keep those fat salaries flowing to our faithful terrorists who have killed and maimed hundreds of innocent Israeli men women and children! Tomorrow I will shoot myself in the left foot and everyone will rejoice in the sacrifices we have all made for the advancement and support of jihad against the Jewish state." Does this sound like "fake news"? Actually, earlier this week PA Chief Abbas canned all of his advisers amid a major budgetary crisis. The PA is feeling monetarily - if not ideologically - squeezed following USA President Donald Trump's decision last year to cut off hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to its headquarters in Ramallah. Additionally, the Palestinian Authority decided to make things worse for its people by reducing by half the salaries of thousands of civil servants to compensate for its refusal to accept any of the \$1.2 billion in annual taxes distributed to Ramallah by Israel. Yes, you read correctly, the PA refused Israel's payment of over a billion dollars into its coffers. That decision was made after Jerusalem passed a law to withhold \$10 million dollars per month from the money dispersed to the PA. This is roughly equivalent to what Abbas' government pays to Palestinian prisoners who perpetrated terrorist attacks and to their families.

UNRWA SUFFERING FINANCIAL SETBACKS DUE TO HIGH-LEVEL CORRUPTION AND TERRORIST SUPPORT: UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees this week reported that it is facing a budget deficit of \$150 million in its annual budget. A recently released UN report found alleged mismanagement and abuses of authority at the highest levels of UNRWA. Following the report, Switzerland decided to suspend funding to UNRWA. The Netherlands discontinued its contribution as well. The USA, which was previously UNRWA's largest contributor, last year cut a full \$300 million in funding to the agency. Additionally, the Palestinian Authority is concerned that the mandate of UNRWA will not be renewed next month at the UN General Assembly. Through UNRWA, the Palestinian Arabs have received 25 times more aid per capita than did the whole of Europe to rebuild their shattered countries after World War II. Decades later, Palestinians continue to claim poverty and statelessness, even though massive funding flows through the hands of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas. UNRWA educational facilities notably employ Hamas members and encourage continued belligerence against Israel. During the 2014 counterterrorism Operation Protective Edge, Hamas rockets were discovered inside a school building run by UNRWA. Likewise, a booby-trapped UNRWA clinic was detonated, killing three IDF soldiers. In addition to massive amounts of explosives stored in the walls of the clinic, it also was discovered to stand on top of dozens of terror tunnels, showing how UNRWA is closely embedded with Hamas.

ISRAEL PRAISES PARAGUAY'S DESIGNATION OF HEZBOLLAH AND HAMAS AS TERROR GROUPS: Paraguay joined Argentina earlier this week as the only Latin America countries to have officially recognized Hezbollah as a terrorist group. The government of Paraguay made it known on Mon. 19 Aug. 2019 that it had moved to designate both the Lebanon-based Hezbollah organization as well as the Hamas group

operating from the Gaza Strip to be terrorist entities in a move praised by Israeli officials. Foreign minister Yisrael Katz applauded the decision in what he described as the “struggle against Iranian-sponsored” terrorism. Brazil is also considering a similar move that would see Lebanon's Hezbollah designated a terror group, however, Tehran currently imports some \$2.5 billion in goods from Brazil annually, which could be significantly impacted by the decision. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro is said to be in favor of the designation as he seeks to align his foreign policy goals with the USA and to encourage stronger ties with the Trump administration. Argentina blames Hezbollah for the bombing of a Jewish community center that killed 85 people in 1994. Hezbollah is also designated as a terrorist organization by the USA, UK, Israel and several Gulf Arab states, but Argentina was the first country in Latin America to do so.

GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR EXCAVATIONS AND PROJECTS OF INTEREST: The Central Bureau of Statistics estimates that tourism to Israel will hit some 4.7 million visitors this year. This is a noteworthy increase over 2018's record-breaking year of 4.12 million tourists. Israel's Ministry of Tourism is always at work to increase the variety and value of sites of interest to the residents of the nation as well as to visitors. For example, the Cabinet Ministers earlier this week moved to increase the budget of the Five Year Plan to upgrade infrastructure and encourage visits to the Western Wall plaza. The budget addition is intended "for the construction and development of the Western Wall and the Western Wall tunnels, including the exposure and preservation of archaeological finds." For people who have never been to Israel, it can only be said that a whole new interesting world awaits you here. Many folks who have come say their lives have been changed by the hours and the days they have spent in this historically, spiritually and culturally rich land. For those people who visit often, there is always something new to delight and to inspire you on your next trip.

EVEN TURKEY AND ARAB COUNTRIES BUY ISRAEL'S MEDJOOOL DATES: If you want a great Israeli dessert try a few Medjool dates. Healthy and delicious, they are low in fat and packed with nutrients like potassium, copper, magnesium, vitamin B6, niacin, calcium, iron, and vitamin K. Israelis eat on the average of a kilo of dates each year while their Arab neighbors eat around ten kilos annually. However, it is the Israelis who have a corner on the sale on the giant nutritious and flavorful Medjool dates. Today Israel supplies about 60% of the global market for Medjool dates exporting this caramel-flavored fruit to some 30 different countries, most notably Turkey and even Arab countries that you might think would be growing some of the best of their own. This week the date harvest began at Kibbutz Eliot in Israel and will continue for about two months. 140 employees will participate in this year's harvest, of which 40 are in the kibbutz's packaging department, which recently purchased a sophisticated sorting machine, which photographs each date from 18 different angles. Dates avocados and mangoes have become among Israel's most profitable agricultural exports, having taken the place of citrus fruits and peppers, which used to be the most popular in Israeli agricultural produce abroad. The date palm is said to be one of the oldest fruit-bearing trees on our planet.



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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