

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 12, 2019 (12th Elul, 5779)

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The image shows two items: on the left, the cover of a book titled 'THE HOOD OF HIS GARMENT' with the subtitle 'TOUCHING THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD'. The cover features a blue and white striped pattern and a photograph of a person's hands. On the right, there is a white prayer shawl (tallit) with blue and gold stripes and a gold tassel (tzitzit).

For the Yachad Report Newsletter For September 2019

NETANYAHU: 'I WILL ESTABLISH JEWISH SOVEREIGNTY IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA': PM Benjamin Netanyahu announced this week, days prior to Israel's 17 Sept. 2019 national elections, that he will establish Israeli sovereignty over all Jewish communities in Judea & Samaria if he is re-elected. Netanyahu emphasized that his first move would be to annex the Jordan Valley, which essentially creates a buffer between Israel and the Arab states farther to its east. "This is the eastern defensive wall that guarantees that we will never again be a mere few miles wide," Netanyahu said on Tues. 10 Sept. 2019. The prime minister stipulated that the measures would be taken in coordination with the administration of USA President Donald Trump. He warned that if he did not win the election, Blue and White leaders Benny Gantz and Yair Lapid, (Netanyahu's political opponents), would fail to take measures to establish Israel's sovereignty in Israel's Jordan Valley or other Jewish communities in Judea & Samaria. The Palestinian Authority has slammed Netanyahu's prospective move.

GAZA ROCKET FIRE INTERRUPTS NETANYAHU'S CAMPAIGN SPEECH IN ASHDOD: On Tues. night, 10 Sept. 2019 Gaza-based terrorists fired two intermediate-range rockets toward the Israeli coastal city of Ashdod, which is located approximately 30 miles from the Gaza Strip border. The Iron Dome defense system intercepted one of the projectiles, while the second landed in open territory, causing no damages or injuries. Israeli PM Netanyahu, who was speaking on Tues. evening in Ashdod stopped his election campaign speech when the sirens went off. "Leave quietly," Netanyahu told the crowd before calmly walking off the stage. He resumed his speech twenty minutes later. In response to the attack, the Israeli Air Force targeted 15 sites in Gaza overnight, the IDF confirmed early Wed. 11 Sept. 2019.

UN NUCLEAR WATCHDOG CONFIRMS RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL FOUND AT IRANIAN SITE IS URANIUM: In September 2018, Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu revealed the location of a "secret atomic warehouse" outside Tehran. "What I'm about to say has not been shared publicly before," Netanyahu

told the UN General Assembly in a speech on 27 September 2018. “Today, I am disclosing for the first time that Iran has another secret facility in Tehran – a secret atomic warehouse for storing massive amounts of equipment and materiel from Iran’s secret nuclear weapons program.” Iran at the time ridiculed Netanyahu’s report and identified the location as a “rug factory”. Netanyahu, however, urged nuclear inspectors to check the secret warehouse “immediately.” The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) examined the site in April of 2019 and confirmed that radioactive material was found. The new twist confirmed in a Reuters’ disclosure on Sunday 8 September 2019 is that the radioactive material was, in fact, uranium, the key ingredient in developing nuclear bombs. Iran has refused to comment on Sunday’s report. UN inspectors arrived in Iran this week after the regime announced it was reducing its commitments to the 2015 nuclear deal. Last weekend, a spokesman for Iran’s atomic agency confirmed that his organization had “started lifting limitations on our research and development imposed by the nuclear deal which will include the development of more rapid and advanced centrifuges.”

ISRAEL’S FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS ON THE WORLD TO STOP IRAN: Traces of radioactive material discovered earlier this year at a secret Tehran weapons warehouse have been identified as uranium. Israel’s Foreign Minister Yisrael Katz (Likud) reacted to International Atomic Energy Agency's Sunday 8 Sept. 2019 announcement that Iran had violated the nuclear agreement by petitioning the world to stop Iran. "I appeal to the governments of France, the United Kingdom, Germany and the other partners to the agreement to immediately announce the activation of the existing mechanism for discussing the breach of the agreement and to lead the cancellation of the agreement and joining with the USA sanctions against Iran. History shows time and again that surrendering to tyrants results in violence and not peace. The world must unite and stop Iran's efforts to attain nuclear power and its support for regional and global terrorism," he added. Also on Sunday, Ali Akbar Salehi, chief of Iran's atomic agency, blamed European powers for the fact that Iran

NEW USA SANCTIONS TARGET IRAN, HAMAS, ISIS: USA President Donald Trump signed an executive order this week imposing new sanctions on various organizations affiliated with Hamas, ISIS, al Qaeda, and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards’ Quds-Force. Trump said the new sanctions will further enable the USA Government to "starve" terrorists of resources they need to attack the United States and its allies and will hold foreign financial institutions who continue to do business with them accountable. “They serve as a powerful deterrent to radical terror groups and those seeking to aid their nefarious goals,” said Trump.

ISRAEL MAINTAINS FINCH A+ RATING: Fitch announced this week that it was confirming its A+ credit rating for Israel. According to the company’s economists, Israel has had an annual surplus on its external balance sheet every year since 2003, and that surplus is expected to remain in place for 2019-2020. The report confirmed that Israel’s foreign currency reserves totaling \$120 billion as of July 2019, and Israel's being a "net external creditor" nation, gives it a stronger position than the median in A-rated or AA-rated countries.” Fitch economists estimate that ongoing progress in reducing Israel's debt-to-GDP ratio or continued reduction to political and security dangers will further improve Israel's credit rating.

TINY FIRST TEMPLE CLAY SEAL DISCOVERED IN JERUSALEM’S OLD CITY: A small 7th century BC clay stamp reading “Belonging to Adoniyahu, Royal Steward,” was recently discovered in the City of David’s sifting project. The seal inscribed with the name Adoniyahu, meaning literally, “The Lord is my Master” was taken from earth excavated under the Western Wall in Jerusalem’s Old City. A national service volunteer in August 2019 discovered the one-centimeter inscribed letter sealer bearing the ancient Hebrew name of a character found several times in the Hebrew Bible. Archaeologist Eli Shukron described the inscription as being unique and “of utmost importance.” The role of the Royal Steward (Asher al Habayit), he explained, appears several times in the Bible and is used for the highest official in the royal court. For example, the title of Royal Steward was used in the Book of Genesis for Joseph’s powerful position in Egypt. The clay stamp was used in the First Temple period to seal important documents, said Shukron.

IRAN SET TO COMPLETELY DERAIL NUCLEAR DEAL: The Islamic Republic announced on Saturday 7 Sept. 2019 that it had begun using advanced centrifuges in violation of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. The decision by Iran marks what it calls its “third step” away from the accord. Centrifuges that speed uranium enrichment will further shorten the time Tehran needs to have enough material available to build a nuclear weapon. Experts estimate that it will take Iran about a year to reach that point. Last July, Tehran announced it was enriching its uranium beyond the 3.67% limit imposed by the accord. It also has gone beyond the 300-kg. limit on the size of its stockpile.

TLAIB AND OMAR EXPRESS DELIGHT IN COURT DECISION BANNING TERRORIST WATCHLIST: USA congresswomen Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) and Ilhan Omar (D-MN) are cheering last week’s ruling by a federal judge that the government’s watchlist of more than one million people identified as “known or suspected terrorists” violates the constitutional rights of those placed on it. “This is tremendous. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to make sure Constitutional rights are extended to all regardless of religion, race or ethnicity!” Omar tweeted on Thur. 5 Sept. 2019. The ruling from USA District Judge Anthony Trenga grants summary judgment to nearly two dozen Muslim USA citizens who had challenged the watchlist with the help of a Muslim civil-rights group, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). CAIR has been accused of links to Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood and its director, Hussam Ayloush, in Nov. 2018 tweeted that the Middle East would be better off if Israel were “terminated.” Omar and Tlaib, who are both Muslim, have been shown to have ties with CAIR. Omar was invited as the main speaker in March 2019 to fundraise for the organization. The following month Tlaib expressed a need to “protect” anti-Israel figures like the radical Islamist CAIR leader Zahra Billoo who does not believe in Israel’s right to exist.

In court, the FBI’s lawyers argued that the difficulties suffered by the plaintiffs pale in comparison to the government’s interests in combating terrorism. Sadly, however, the Council on American-Islamic Relations scored a big victory last week with the federal judge ruling that the FBI’s terror watch list violates the Constitution. Both Tlaib and Omar have faced allegations of anti-Semitism due to their rhetoric on Israel and their support of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Last month the two women were banned from entering the State of Israel, a move applauded by President Donald Trump, as he has repeatedly accused them of anti-Semitism. “It would show great weakness if Israel allowed Rep. Omar and Rep. Tlaib to visit,” Trump said. “They hate Israel and all Jewish people, and there is nothing that can be said or done to change their minds. They are a disgrace!”

EXPATS LOVE ISRAEL FOR ITS QUALITY OF LIFE, DESPITE HIGH COSTS: Israel has become the 14th most- favored location for expats, having risen eight places in a single year. Expat Insider recently surveyed some 20,000 expats located in 64 countries around the globe to determine their level of satisfaction. Results disclosed that expats living in Israel are very happy with their work situation and the high quality of life in the Jewish State. Their commonly expressed struggle, however, has been with Israel’s high cost of living. The survey revealed that Israel is among the world’s worst countries (61st place in 2019) for cost of living for the sixth consecutive year. On a positive note, expats in Israel expressed widespread satisfaction regarding the affordability of healthcare (84% vs. 55% globally), the quality of medical care (88% vs. 65% globally), and the availability of leisure activities in the country (88% vs. 75% globally). Taiwan, Vietnam, and Portugal were ranked as the best global destinations, all of them attracting expats with their ease of settling in and good personal finances. Kuwait was ranked as the least desirable destination for relocation, followed by Italy and Nigeria. Israel is currently at its highest ranking since InterNations published its first survey six years ago.

ELECTRIC BUSES COME TO JERUSALEM: Jerusalem’s Environmental Protection officials continue their efforts to boost the level of breathable air for Jerusalem’s residents and visitors. Last week ten electric buses began operating on the streets of Jerusalem. The Egged vehicles have zero pollution emissions, less than half of the greenhouse gas emissions than diesel buses, and quieter operation. The electric buses are charged

for about five hours and can travel for 200 kilometers between charges. Protection Minister MK Zeev Elkin said in the future, dozens of other electric buses will operate in the capital. "This move is joined by a number of other steps we are making such as the creation of a low-emissions zone in Jerusalem, funding shuttles to industrial zones, and subsidizing bicycle-sharing services - so that Jerusalem residents can enjoy both clean air and a better quality of life."

IRAN THREATENS TO TAKE A 'STRONG STEP' AWAY FROM NUCLEAR DEAL: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported last weekend that Iran has expanded its breach in the nuclear deal increasing its stock of enriched uranium and refining it to a higher purity than allowed. On Mon. 2 Sept. 2019 Iran threatened to take a further "strong step," away from the agreement by the end of this week if Europe fails to deliver new terms by the deadline. Iranian spokesman Ali Rabiei reinforced the cut-off date Iran had set for Europe to offer it a way to market its crude oil globally. Heavy USA sanctions imposed after President Donald Trump withdrew America from the deal over a year ago have halted those sales. Rabiei described Iran's strategy as "commitment for commitment." "Iran's oil should be bought and its money should be accessible to return to Iran," Rabiei said. On Tues. 3 Sept. 2019 the spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Behrouz Kamalvandi said Iran is able to resume production of 20% enriched uranium within two days.

IRAN CONSTRUCTING LARGE MILITARY BASE IN SYRIA: Multiple intelligence sources reported this week that Iran is constructing a massive military base in Syria capable of housing thousands of troops and storing precision missiles. Sources claim the base, named the Iman Ali Compound, is being built by the Iranian Al Quids forces. The largest military base Iran has constructed in Syria to date is expected to be completed within months. It is located a mere 200 miles away from a USA military installation.

FRANCE: \$15 B. TO IRAN IN RETURN FOR BETTER BEHAVIOR ON NUCLEAR DEAL: French President Emmanuel Macron this week offered the Islamic Republic \$15 billion to keep Tehran from making further moves to reduce its commitment to the 2015 nuclear agreement. The French government seems to be stammering and stuttering as to how exactly to carry this off, but the offer, according to Iranian officials, has officially been made. One source close to the negotiations said, "The question is to know if we can reach this \$15 billion level, secondly who will finance it, and thirdly we need to get at the very least the tacit approval of the United States." Actually, USA President Trump has imposed still further sanctions on Iran this week, and national security adviser John Bolton has made it clear that he opposes the French proposal. So does Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu who stood against the 2015 agreement with Iran and pressed USA President Donald Trump to abandon it. Meanwhile, a senior Iranian official said in response to France's offer: "We are still discussing it. It should be guaranteed that we will have access to this amount freely and also Iran should be able to sell its oil and have access to its own money." A second Iranian official said the EU and particularly France should convince the USA to cooperate with them. "If not," he threatened, Iran is very serious about decreasing its nuclear commitments."

France's bailout package is posed to compensate Iran for oil sales lost to USA sanctions. A senior American official said the core of the package is a \$15 billion letter of credit, equal to about half the revenue Iran would expect to earn from oil exports in a year. In return for the money, Iran would agree to return to compliance with a 2015 nuclear accord. Iran has said that if the talks fail, it will escalate its nuclear activity starting Friday 6 Sept. 2019. It might be asked if France's meddling in the USA's strong measures to curb the Islamic Republic's bad behavior is not something akin to suggesting "land for peace" to unrepentant terrorist entities, or the Palestinian Authority paying salaries to killer terrorists in Israeli jails?

ALIYAH RISES BY 30%: Jewish aliya (immigration) to Israel rose by nearly 30% in the first half of 2019 over the same period last year. The sharp increase in newcomers, 16,005 arrivals, has been attributed to Russian speakers from countries facing financial problems, nationalism, and crackdowns on civil liberties.

The majority of immigrants came from Russia, where aliyah rose by 72% to 7,884 arrivals this year, and Ukraine, which saw a 9% increase to 3,007 immigrants.

FDA APPROVES ISRAEL'S GROUNDBREAKING CANCER TREATMENT: An innovative drug to prevent the proliferation of cancerous cells has just received FDA approval. The drug, a first of its kind in the world, was developed by Israeli scientist Dr. Sharon Shacham. During a trial that led to XPOVIO's approval, 40% of leukemia patients saw their tumors shrink while patient life expectancy increased by three to five times as a result of the treatment. The drug is now undergoing advanced clinical trials for patients with brain cancer, lymphoma, myeloma, sarcoma, and uterine cancer.

ALZHEIMER MEDICATIONS AID AUTISTIC CHILDREN, ISRAELI RESEARCHERS FIND: A recent study conducted by Israel's Sheba Medical Center has noted a marked improvement in the language skills of autistic children after six months of treatment with the drugs Donepezil and Cholin – also used to treat Alzheimer's patients. 60 children and teenagers aged five to sixteen; all of who suffered from autism of varying severity participated in the study. Research supervisor, Dr. Lidia Gavis, noted that the brains of autistic patients suffer from a lack of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine, which is also lacking in the brains of Alzheimer's sufferers. She said the drug treatment combined with food supplements had a positive effect on the autistic subjects and called the study a "very significant achievement."

ISRAEL'S LARGEST RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANT OPENS IN THE NEGEV: Israel's largest renewable energy project, a \$1.13 billion thermo-solar power plant near Ashalim in the Negev was unveiled last week. The vast solar power resource will deliver electricity to 70,000 households in Israel and is the only facility of its kind in the nation that is able to produce energy overnight. Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz said, "In the near future, we will terminate the use of coal and other polluting fuels in Israel altogether, and close the coal turbines in Hadera and later on in Ashkelon. It will be only natural gas and renewables, mainly solar systems."

McDONALD'S-ISRAEL KEEPS ON GOING VEGAN: This week's good news for Israeli Vegans is that McDonald's expanded its pilot sales of vegan burgers to 40 branches on Wed. 4 Sept. 2019. The "Big Vegan" (there's also a double-size vegan burger) was introduced two months ago and has until now been sold at only 18 of the chain's 186 branches in Israel, most of them in the greater Tel Aviv area which is known as "vegan capital of the world. McDonald's-Israel is also planning to open 10 new branches by the end of the year, including the two new restaurants at Ben Gurion Airport.



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