

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update November 7, 2019 (9th Cheshvan, 5780)



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

IRAN IS STILL THE BIGGEST STATE SPONSOR OF TERROR: The USA State Department said in its Country Reports on Terrorism 2018, which was released on Friday 1 Nov. 2019 that the Tehran regime has spent nearly \$1 billion per year to support terror organizations "that serve as its proxies and expand its malign influence across the globe". Those groups include Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. The report reveals that in spite of sanctions, the Islamic Republic is still the "world's worst state sponsor of terrorism." In addition to subsidizing terrorist entities, Iran has also plotted and carried out its own terrorist acts around the globe, most notably in Belgium, France, and Germany, said the department.

NETANYAHU: IRAN EMBOLDENED BY LACK OF RESPONSE TO AGGRESSION: The failure to respond to Iran's aggression in the region is making the country more brazen, PM Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thur. 31 Oct. 2019 in an apparent criticism of the USA's lack of response to Iranian attacks in recent months on oil installations, drones, and ships in the Persian Gulf. "The area around us is turbulent," Netanyahu said at an IDF officer's graduation ceremony. "The threats are popping up all around us – in Syria, Lebanon, the Gaza Strip, and also in Iraq, in Yemen and directly in Iran." Earlier last week, Netanyahu said Iran is deploying precision weapons to Yemen in order to strike Israel. He told the new IDF officers that Iran and pro-Iranian forces are actively, and without let-up, arming themselves. "We are prepared for the threats, and will not hesitate to deliver a fierce blow against anyone who will try to harm us," he said. "The level of Iran's boldness in the region is rising, and is getting even greater in light of a lack of a response." Israel, he said, "will not extend the other cheek, and anyone who wants to be aggressive will be answered in full force and pay a heavy price." Israeli embassies are increasing security this month due to growing fears of a possible Iranian terrorist attack on Israeli targets abroad. The move comes amid increased tensions with Iran in the region and following its recent attack against Saudi Arabian oil facilities.

USA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' SUGGESTION TO CUT MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL "IS COMPLETELY OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITY": Three leading Democratic presidential candidates

last week suggested that the best way to pressure Jerusalem into a wide-sweeping policy change in the “so-called” West Bank, (Judea & Samaria) would be to cut USA military aid. The three added that they would be in favor of such a move. In the accurate words of one commentator: “These statements are completely out of touch with the realities of Palestinian-Israeli relations and developments in the Middle East.” Prof. Eytan Gilboa, director of the Center for International Communication at Bar-Ilan University continued that “the candidates deliberately distort the nature of USA military aid to Israel. They ignore the Palestinians' repeated rejection of peace negotiations and peace proposals. They also ignore the unrelenting Palestinian campaign of delegitimization against Israel and the monthly payments to terrorists convicted of murdering thousands of Israeli civilians.

“The term ‘aid’ in the context of USA Israeli defense relations is itself misleading, explained Gilboa. “The more accurate term is ‘investment,’ as most of the funds are reinvested back into the USA economy as it goes to American defense manufacturers. In return for aid, Israel provides the USA military and defense industries with information about weapons effectiveness, develops innovative military technology like missile defense systems and border surveillance technology, and shares intelligence and battle-proven military doctrines. Despite serious disagreements between then-President Obama and PM Netanyahu, in September 2016 they signed a memorandum of understanding committing \$3.8 billion annually for military aid for the next 10 years, as Obama recognized the value of a long-term investment in the USA-Israeli defense collaboration.

NIKKI HALEY SLAMS BERNIE SANDERS FOR WANTING TO GIVE USA AID TO TERRORISTS RATHER THAN ISRAEL: During last week’s J. Street conference held in Washington D.C. Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders said that a chunk of the \$3.8 billion aid to Israel should be rechanneled to the Gaza Strip which is controlled by Hamas - a USA recognized terrorist organization. Respected and well-loved former USA ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, came right back at Sanders for his speech at the J. Street conference last Tues. 29 Oct. 2019. She wrote, "Just when you thought Bernie Sanders couldn't get any more radical, he outdid himself. He wants to take the money we give to Israel to defend itself from terrorists and give it to Gaza, which is run by terrorists?? Unreal. Why isn't every other Dem pres candidate saying he's wrong?" Her response comes after Sanders spoke at the J Street conference and said the solution is to stipulate to Israel, that "if you want military aid you're going to have to fundamentally change your relationship to the people of Gaza." Sanders also called Israeli PM Netanyahu a racist, as he has many times in the past. Haley served as the USA ambassador to the UN from 2017-2018. During her tenure, she stood steadfastly against all anti-Israel bias from the UN.

KNESSET SPEAKER TELLS SANDERS YOU NEED TO “STOP TALKING NONSENSE”: Israeli Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein slammed Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders last week for suggesting that USA military aid to Israel should be diverted toward humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip. Likud MK Edelstein said that Sanders should “stop talking nonsense,” adding that the Vermont senator’s assertion that Israel was responsible for conditions in Gaza was “absurd”. Edelstein, a senior member of PM Netanyahu's Likud party was responding to remarks that Sanders made at the J Street conference on Monday 28 Oct. 2019. The Vermont senator had suggested that the \$3.8 billion dollars in USA military assistance to Israel could be “leveraged” to pressure Israel to move towards a two-state solution and that he believed aid should instead be put towards improving living conditions for Palestinians in Gaza “right now.” In his tweets addressed to Sanders, Edelstein said that while speaking to European Union representatives visiting the Knesset last week, “I told them about the absurd claims regarding the economic situation in the Gaza Strip,” adding that “it's time to put an end to these claims.” Hamas leaders in Gaza, he said, “have all the necessary means – they use the money earmarked for the public benefit in order to attack the State of Israel.” Edelstein included a video of his recent discussion with the EU representatives, in which he told them that Hamas is a “terror organization” that doesn’t “know how to govern” and blamed them for poor living conditions in Gaza. When someone says there are no means, I don’t accept it,” Edelstein said. The tunnels Hamas has built

to infiltrate Israel clearly “cost millions,” as does their weaponry. Every time he sees a Hamas rocket launched towards Israel,” Edelstein told the visiting diplomats, “I see food and diapers and medicine flying in the air.”

GAZA’S MISERY IS WHOSE FAULT? Palestinian misery in the Gaza Strip portrays a harvest of hatred for all the world to see: Billions of dollars of humanitarian aid have been seeded into an endless pit of Islamic disdain for Israel and the Jewish people - have been spent on weapons instead of schools and sanitation facilities - squandered or siphoned into foreign bank accounts by terrorist leaders. The Palestinians could have had thriving orchards and greenhouses, businesses and homes built by Israelis forced to abandon the Gaza Strip “for the sake of peace.” But Gaza is in ruins, racked with poverty and despair because her Hamas terrorist leaders continue to plot, and to perpetuate violence and destruction against the Jewish nation. Instead of a new state, global assistance to prosper, a future for the young, Hamas thugs rule over a putrefying sore of human misery. These terrorist madmen are always preparing for the next war against Israel; building terrorist tunnels, better projectiles and hurling rockets at Israel’s Negev communities. They then whine to the world they have no food, no fuel when Israel, after restraint beyond human understanding, enforces defensive measures to defend her harassed, shocked, disrupted and outraged citizenry. When mercy comes, Palestinians resume tunnel building, terrorists bomb Israel’s well-laden aid trucks, and return to pot-shooting Sderot and Ashkelon. What Gaza is, is what Gaza Palestinians and their Israel-hating, jihadist leaders have chosen. All that was ever asked of them was to recognize the Jewish nation, stop terrorist violence, and abide by previous peace agreements. They choose instead; gall, destruction, and chaos. Their harvest is bitter fruit, and it is not Israel’s fault.

VIOLENCE FLARES ALONG THE GAZA STRIP BORDER AFTER WEEKS OF CALM: Following weeks of relative quiet along the Gaza Strip border a rocket was fired from the Hamas- controlled enclave on Thur. 31 Oct. 2019. It fell into Israel causing no deaths or injuries. The attack was followed by retaliatory IDF tank fire. On Friday, 1 Nov. 2019 the level of violence at the weekly “March of Return” along the border spiraled with medical sources in Gaza reporting “scores” of marchers allegedly wounded by Israeli security forces. That same day, at least ten rockets were launched at Israel, seven of which were successfully intercepted by the Iron Dome anti-missile system. One rocket managed to get through and damage a home in the border town of Sderot. Despite heavy destruction to the building, a family in an adjoining structure was unhurt. It is believed that the rockets were fired by Islamic Jihad and not Hamas. Nevertheless, the response from the Israelis was aimed at Hamas targets in keeping with Israeli policy that states as rulers of the Gaza Strip, Hamas bears full responsibility for all acts of violence.

J STREET IS NOT ISRAEL'S FRIEND: J Street leaders, supporters and political backers are already demanding that the future of USA aid to Israel will be conditional on the Jewish state halting settlement expansion. They want the issue to be a plank for the 2020 presidential elections. “Our aid is not intended to be a blank check,” Jeremy Ben-Ami, the group’s president, said on Sunday evening, 27 October 2019, at the opening of the J Street annual conference. Ben-Ami called on candidates to reverse Trump administration policies that he claims have favored Israel over the Palestinians. He announced that the organization’s student wing, J Street U, has already launched a campaign to press the Democratic Party to include in its platform a call on Israel to end its “so-called” occupation of Judea & Samaria. Two former Obama administration National Security Council officials, Ben Rhodes and Tommy Vietor interviewed several Democratic candidates throughout the two-day conference held in Washington, D.C. including Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana; former Housing secretary Julian Castro; Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont; and Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado.

PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDERS AT J STREET CONFERENCE VOW THAT ISRAEL WILL AGAIN BE PRESSURED TO REWARD ITS ENEMIES WITH A STATE: Five Democratic presidential candidates came in person this week to deliver a “peace message” before J Street, a left-leaning group that claims to be more in tune with American Jews. They pledged on Mon. 28 Oct. 2019, at the annual

J Street conference, to sharply depart from Donald Trump's unbreakable fidelity to Israel and to pressure [bully] Israel into a peace deal that would pilot the establishment of a Palestinian state. In short, these folks are gearing up to be the new team to trek around Peace Mountain – a thus-far fruitless, predictable venture undertaken dozens of times in the past two centuries without arriving at the coveted destination. Tragically, thousands have perished along the way. Senator Bernie Sanders, who rarely talks about his Jewish faith, rose from his seat on stage to give his campaign-style address. He accused both Trump and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu of fomenting division and then said, "We demand that the Israeli government sit down with the Palestinian people and negotiate an agreement that works for all parties." Sigh.... Sanders went on to say his message to Israel would be, "if you want military aid, you are going to have to fundamentally change your relationship" with the Palestinians. He called for some of the \$3.8 billion in annual military assistance to be turned into humanitarian aid for the Gaza Strip in a "radical intercession" for the territory that has been under a blockade since it elected the Islamist terrorist group Hamas in 2007.

Meanwhile, Democratic frontrunners Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren, both appearing before J Street in video messages rather than in person, said they would oppose any action that closes the door on a Palestinian state. "If Israel's government continues with steps to formally annex the West Bank, (Judea & Samaria) the USA should make clear that none of our aid should be used to support annexation," said Warren. She added that she would reverse two key measures of Trump - by resuming aid to the UN refugee agency for Palestinians and allowing the Palestine Liberation Organization to unshutter its Washington office. Biden, who had troubled relations with Netanyahu while vice president, said: "The two-state solution is the best, if not the only, way to secure a peaceful future for a Jewish, democratic state of Israel." In truth, many of us here in Israel could perish from the tediousness of such political clichés. They merely serve to reestablish that members of the team of Democrats wanting to sign up for the next trek around Peace Mountain are sadly ignorant of those who have made the journey before them, as well as the cultural and historical quagmires they will encounter in the Middle East. Please Americans, plan now to get out and vote in 2020 lest teams like this get into power by default.

WHAT IS J STREET – WHO ARE ITS FINANCIAL BACKERS? If you are not aware of J Street and who supports this anti-Israel propaganda machine it is wise to familiarize yourself before the thick of the USA Presidential Elections gets underway in 2020. You will likely see the name J Street many times before and during next year's political campaign so it's important to know what it stands for and who backs it. J Street was established in 2008 as the first-ever federal political action committee (PAC) which describes itself as "the political home for pro-Israel, pro-peace Americans," promoting American leadership to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. J Street is in fact, a virulently anti-Israel and anti-Zionist propaganda machine, founded by Jeremy Ben-Ami with money from virulently anti-Israel billionaire George Soros. George Soros gives billions to left-wing causes. He has manipulated USA presidential election outcomes with his resources, including giving \$23.58 million to various 527 groups dedicated to defeating then-President George W. Bush in 2004, while financially jump-starting former president Barack Obama's political career. Soros is also lavish in his financial support for the pro-abortion organization, Planned Parenthood.

J Street's founding Executive Director Jeremy Ben-Ami is a former domestic policy adviser in the Clinton Administration. Ben-Ami refuses to recognize Israel as a Jewish state. He was accused of being a serial liar when despite his repeated denials, anti-Israeli George Soros was exposed as one of his major contributors. Meanwhile, Co-founder Daniel Levy has described Israel's creation as "an act that went wrong." Pro-Israel sources have commented that the tone set by J Street's leadership is to "manipulate history and reality with dangerous rhetoric." J Street's approach has been described as being "arrogant and paternalistic" with its leaders having the chutzpah to claim that they know better than Israelis what is good for Israel. J Street collaborators have been sharply criticized for being out of touch with, or indifferent to, the existential threats Israel faces, ignorant of history and unwilling to grapple with the complexities of Israel's situation – while comparing Israeli Jews to drug-addicted children who require "tough love" for their welfare.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BACKERS OF J STREET: In addition to billionaire George Soros, among J Street's list of major contributors is Richard Abdo, a leader of the Arab Council; Wagih Abu-Rish of the Arab American Institute; Magdi Badawy, a Stop the Occupation activist; Nidal Ayyat from Dharam, Saudi Arabia; Farhan Bhatti, PR director for the Islamic Center. Also Genevieve Lynch, board member of the National Iranian American Council (ousted as a lobbying group for the mullahs), who is on J Street's finance committee and who has contributed thousands of dollars to it. There's also Nancy Dutton, an attorney who once represented the Saudi Embassy in Washington. And then there is Mehmet Celebi, the former president of the Turkish American Cultural Association, who co-produced the viciously anti-American Valley of the Wolves: a 2006 film that depicts a Jewish American doctor harvesting organs from prisoners in Iraq. It is estimated that 50% of J Street's budget comes from outside the USA, from sources who are known for their anti-Israel stances. Among other facts to note concerning J Street is that ahead of a crucial congressional vote to either ratify or block the Iran deal, J Street in July 2015 took out a full-page advertisement in the New York Times supporting calls to Congress to refrain from "sabotaging" the Iranian nuclear agreement. Sadly the dangerous J Street organization, which claims to be pro-Israel, is making many converts in synagogues and on college campuses across America.

JEWISH ORGANIZATION LEADERS THANK TRUMP FOR AL-BAGHDADI'S DEATH: ISIS founder and leader Bakr al-Baghdadi "blew himself up" when cornered by USA forces who conducted a nocturnal raid on his compound in northern Syria, President Donald Trump announced on Sunday, 27 Oct. 2019. USA forces suffered no injuries during the military operation. Baghdadi's death marks the end of a years-long hunt to find the man who declared an Islamic caliphate in Iraq and Syria and who sanctioned and participated in the brutal torture, beheadings, rapes, and deaths of countless innocent men women and children during his hellish period of influence. It can only be said that many people in many nations are celebrating his removal from planet Earth. In the aftermath of al-Baghdadi's death, Arthur Stark, Chairman, and Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman/CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations commented on the elimination of the terrorist leader. "We congratulate President Donald Trump and the USA armed forces for the elimination of the leading ISIS terrorist Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who was responsible for the deaths of so many innocent people from the USA, the region, and around the world. We are grateful for the return of all those involved. The raid was brilliantly planned and executed," they said in a statement.

ISIS SPOKESMAN, POSSIBLE AL-BAGHDADI SUCCESSOR, KILLED IN SEPARATE USA RAID: Hours following an American raid that killed ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, a separate USA airstrike eliminated the terror group's spokesman Abu Hassan al-Muhajir, who was considered al-Baghdadi's possible successor. Mazlum Abdi, head of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces that fought ISIS wrote on Twitter that al-Muhajir had been killed on Sunday, 27 Oct. 2019 in an operation coordinated between his forces and the USA.

BELGIUM WELCOMES IN FIRST FEMALE PRIME MINISTER WHO IS ALSO JEWISH: Sophie Wilmes on Sunday, 27 Oct. 2019 became the first woman and the first Jewish person to become the prime minister of Belgium, replacing Charles Michel in the country's leading position. Wilmes' mother who is Jewish lost several relatives in the Holocaust. One source from the Jewish community, a member of Wilmes' party who spoke to media sources on condition of anonymity, said that Judaism has recently become "a more important factor" in Wilmes' life. Michael Freilich, a Belgian lawmaker for the N-VA described Wilmes' appointment as "a historic event that makes me feel proud".

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