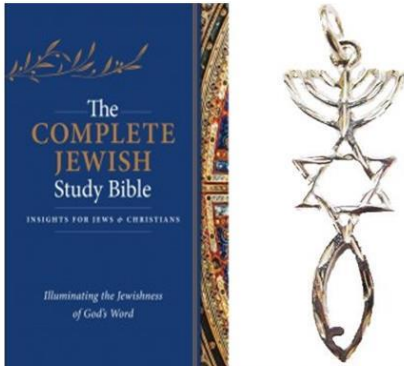


Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update January 30, 2020 ***(4th Shvot, 5780)***

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For the Yachad Report Newsletter For January 2020

Top Islamic Leaders Visit Auschwitz; A delegation of Muslim leaders visited Auschwitz on Thur. 23 Jan. 2020 ahead of the anniversary of the liberation of the Polish death camp in which over one million Jews were killed. Jewish leaders called the visit a 'groundbreaking' event. The secretary-general of the Muslim World League, Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, and the CEO of the American Jewish Committee, David Harris, led a delegation of 62 Muslims, including 25 prominent religious leaders, from 28 countries in a tour of Auschwitz. "To be here, among the children of Holocaust survivors and members of the Jewish and Islamic communities, is both a sacred duty and a profound honor," Al-Issa said. "The unconscionable crimes to which we bear witness today are truly crimes against humanity." AJC CEO David Harris called the group of Saudi and other Muslims "the most senior delegation of Muslim religious leaders to visit Auschwitz ever." Auschwitz concentration camp was a complex of over 40 concentration and extermination camps operated by Nazi Germany in occupied Poland during World War II and the Holocaust. Of the 1.3 million people sent to Auschwitz, 1.1 million died. Those not gassed died of starvation, exhaustion, disease, individual executions, or beatings. Others were killed during medical experiments. The camps became a major site of the Nazis' Final Solution to the Jewish Question.

A Blow to Holocaust Denial; Dignitaries from around the world gathered in Israel last week for the Fifth World Holocaust Forum. Kings, presidents and other notables came together in Jerusalem for the event, including USA Vice President Mike Pence, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Britain's Prince Charles, and French President Emmanuel Macron. The long list of attendees also included four kings and many leaders from such countries as Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Ukraine and Argentina, as well as the presidents of the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament. Israeli diplomats said that not even the funerals of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres drew groups of foreign dignitaries like the ones attending last week's Holocaust commemoration, which was secured by more than 10,000 police. Events involving the visiting global leaders included speeches addressing the alarming increase of anti-Semitism; the necessity of dealing with the peril of Iran, and visits to Jerusalem's World Holocaust Remembrance Center; Yad Vashem.

One among many positive outcomes of last week's gathering might be defined as a blow against Holocaust denial. For who could pass through the halls of Yad Vashem, with its photographs of Jewish victims, beaten, starved, tortured and put to death in gas chambers by the millions and not be undone emotionally by the indisputable evidence of Nazi brutality? Holocaust denial and distortions are forms of anti-Semitism perpetrated by such figures and groups as the UK's David Irving, Palestinian chief Mahmoud Abbas, with a Ph.D. Thesis supportive of Holocaust Denial, and former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who said upon leaving office that publicizing his Holocaust denial was a major achievement of his presidency. Holocaust denial has also manifested within white nationalism and the Ku Klux Klan. May the lies denying the facts and actuality of the Shoah be toppled by the magnitude of visible, written, indisputable evidence to the contrary.

Netanyahu: A Lesson the Holocaust Taught Us; Speaking to a group of world dignities from around the world on Thur. 23 Jan. 2020, PM Benjamin Netanyahu said at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, "Your presence in Jerusalem honors the memory of the six million victims of the Holocaust. Israel and the Jewish people thank you. Israel is eternally grateful for the immense sacrifice that was made by the allies, by the peoples and the soldiers, to defeat the Nazis and save our common civilization. Without that sacrifice, there would be no survivors today. Yet we also remember that some 80 years ago, when the Jewish people faced annihilation, the world largely turned its back on us. For the Jewish people, Auschwitz is the ultimate symbol of Jewish powerlessness. It is the culmination of what can happen when our people have no voice, no land, no shield. The Jewish people have learned the lessons of the Holocaust: always to take seriously the threats of those who seek our destruction; to confront threats when they are small, and above all to always have the power to defend ourselves by ourselves."

Most USA Adults Don't Know Facts About The Holocaust; A new study released by the Pew Research Center last week found that more than half of USA adults don't know basic facts about the Holocaust, including how Hitler came to power or the number of Jewish victims. The study asked nearly 13,000 respondents, Jewish and non-Jewish adults, and teenagers, key questions about the Shoah. Most knew that the Holocaust took place between 1930 and 1950 and that Nazi ghettos were areas of cities where Jews were forced to live. But only 45% knew that 6 million Jews died in the Holocaust. Among the teens, only 38% knew the number of killed. In the Pew study, 43% of the American adults knew that Adolf Hitler became the chancellor of Germany through a democratic process. A quarter of adults thought Hitler came to power through violence and another 25% did not know. Jewish respondents to the Pew survey answered all the questions correctly at higher rates than the overall sample. 90% knew the era when the Holocaust happened, 86% defined ghettos correctly and knew 6 million Jews were killed, and 57% knew that Hitler became chancellor democratically.

France: Too Little Holocaust Education In Schools; A recent survey conducted by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany has found that 25% of French millennials have not heard of the Holocaust. The survey, which was released last week in advance of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, stressed both the desire and the need for Holocaust education. It was the fourth survey done by the Claims Conference in recent months, with others being carried out in the USA, Canada, and Austria. Vice president of the Claims Conference in Israel Shlomo Gur said that there is no doubt we have reached this point because there is just too little Holocaust education in schools. "Holocaust education needs to be incorporated into both the formal school system and in an informal setting as well, in both Jewish and non-Jewish schools worldwide", he said. Gur added that it is also deeply troubling that the French study found that "more than half of the 1,100 people polled (52%) believe that something like the Holocaust could happen again in Europe." Of those surveyed, 36% of French respondents also felt that something like the Holocaust could happen in the United States, "a sentiment that mirrors findings in the previously conducted Austria survey, which indicated 47% felt that something like the Holocaust could happen in the United States." Asked about how to encourage the younger generations to learn about the Holocaust now and in the future as the number of

survivors dwindle, Gur pointed out that using formal education “to at least plant the seeds,” together with the news media and the Internet are important means of connecting to the next generation and educating them about the Shoah. French President Emmanuel Macron last week laid a wreath at the Memorial to the Deportation of Jews from France, located near Beit Shemesh in Israel. The memorial carries the names of the deportees, along with their date and place of birth. It is set in a forest of 80,000 pine trees, signifying the 80,000 Jews deported from France to Nazi labor and death camps.

Dutch PM Apologizes For Holland’s Part In The Holocaust; In a first by a sitting prime minister in the Netherlands, PM Mark Rutte has apologized for how his kingdom’s wartime government failed its Jews. Some 75% of the 140,000 Jews who lived in the Netherlands prior to the Holocaust were murdered by German Nazis and their local collaborators. The Dutch police under Nazi occupation and the national railway company were widely involved in hunting down Jews and transporting them to death camps and concentration camps. Rutte, on Sunday 26 Jan. 2020 during a Holocaust commemoration, offered “apologies for the government of those days, while the last survivors are still with us.” That government, he said, “failed in its responsibility as a provider of justice and security” for Dutch Jews. France, Belgium and Luxembourg have officially apologized for their authorities’ roles in the systemic annihilation of Jews. It is fair to note, that during World War II, the Netherlands had a strong resistance movement and the second-largest number of Righteous Among the Nations - the designation reserved for non-Jews who were recognized by Israel for risking their lives to save Jews from the Holocaust.

Trump to Reveal Mid-East Peace Plan This Week; President Donald Trump said over the weekend that he will release his long-delayed peace plan for the Middle East before Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and his election rival Benny Gantz visit the White House next Tues. 28 Jan. 2020. Trump said Palestinians might react negatively to his plan at first, but that "it's actually very positive for them. It's a great plan. It's a plan that really would work." For the time being, the USA administration doesn't expect the Israeli government to recognize a Palestinian state, only to express willingness to discuss it in the future, and only if the Palestinians meet the American demands.

Jerusalem Hosts World Holocaust Forum; Delegations from 49 countries, including 41 heads of state, are attending the Fifth World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem this week to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. Israeli diplomats said that not even the funerals of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres drew as many foreign dignitaries. USA Vice President Mike Pence, House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Britain's Prince Charles and French President Emmanuel Macron are the most prominent names. The Forum has included a state dinner at Israeli President Reuven Rivlin's official residence and a memorial ceremony at Yad Vashem where leaders from the four WWII Allied countries and Germany gave speeches. Putin also attended a dedication ceremony for a monument in Jerusalem in memory of the heroism of the soldiers and residents killed during the siege of Leningrad.

Serbian President Honors Holocaust Remembrance Day; Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic is flying a yellow flag to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day at his official residence in the capital of Belgrade. The flag, which bears a Star of David and the word “Jude” is meant to evoke the yellow star badge that Jews were forced to wear during the Holocaust. It is flying alongside the Serbian national flag at the Novi Dvor building. Vucic tweeted a photo of the flag this week with the words, “This sign was a symbol of an attempt to destroy the Jewish people by the Nazis. Today it is a badge of honor”. Vucic is attending the Fifth World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem this week. International Holocaust Remembrance Day falls on 27 Jan. 2020.

Netanyahu Praises Colombia, Honduras, And Guatemala; PM Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed a joint announcement by Colombia, Honduras, and Guatemala regarding their official designation of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, possibly targeting a major source of revenue for the Iranian proxy. The three countries

made the statement on Mon. 20 Jan. 2020. In recent months, Netanyahu and USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have led an effort in several countries in Latin America to ban Hezbollah. Colombia, Honduras, and Guatemala joined Argentina and Paraguay, which have already banned the Lebanon-based terrorist group. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo likewise applauded the announcement, noting that Hezbollah and other transnational terrorist groups remain active in the region. In this move, the three countries joined Germany, Israel, the USA, Canada, the United Kingdom, the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Japan in banning Hezbollah in its entirety. Netanyahu this week also called upon French President Emmanuel Macron to have his country designate all of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, instead of just part of it.

Russian Official Warns Iran Not To Take 'Reckless Steps'; Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov on Mon. 20 Jan. 2020 warned Iran not to take any "reckless steps" to quit the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Sputnik News reported. Ryabkov also urged Iran to comply with its obligations to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Earlier on Monday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif promised that if the European powers file a complaint against Iran due to its violations of the 2015 nuclear agreement, the rogue power will quit the NPT as well. Zarif was quoted as saying: "If the Europeans continue their improper behavior or send Iran's file to the Security Council, we will withdraw from the NPT." Seyyed Abbas Mousavi, spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, in a preposterous lie this week, claimed his country is still in compliance with the 2015 agreement, despite confirmation by the IAEA last November that Iran had violated the deal. "Tehran still remains in the deal," he claimed in a televised news conference. "The European powers' claims about Iran violating the deal are unfounded." The truth is that Iran earlier this month announced that it would no longer abide by any of the restrictions placed on its uranium enrichment program, and President Hassan Rouhani claimed his country was now producing more of the substance than before the nuclear pact was forged.

Israel: 560 'Significant' Terror Attacks Thwarted in 2019; Israel's internal security agency says it has thwarted over 560 "significant" terror plots, including suicide attacks, in the past year. Speaking this week at an award ceremony honoring operational and intelligence achievements in 2019, Shin Bet Director Nadav Argaman said the attacks were aimed against Israeli civilians and infrastructure. "This past year was full of security challenges on all fronts," said Argaman. "We foiled 10 suicide attacks, four abductions and over 300 shootings." PM Netanyahu, who attended the ceremony, in his speech focused primarily on the "Iranian threat," which he said poses both a "nuclear and terror" challenge. "We must overcome it just like we overcame the great threat of Pan-Arabism," he said. "Our determination to fight for our future and to defeat our enemies must be much stronger than theirs. The lives of hundreds of Israelis, perhaps more, were saved by your Shin Bet activity," he said. The prime minister added that "many" countries in the world now want to cooperate with Israeli intelligence agencies. "Everyone wants cooperation with Israeli intelligence. We are in a time of unprecedented political, economic, operational and military prosperity."

PA News Source Wants Bloodshed At Holocaust Memorial Event; While dignitaries from around the world arrived in Jerusalem this week, the Palestinian Authority's official daily newspaper, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, did not throw out a welcome mat. In an incendiary op-ed, the paper incited for violence during an event that is supposed to commemorate the six million Jews who were slaughtered during the Holocaust. "One shot will disrupt the ceremony and one dead body will cancel the ceremony," the paper wrote in reference to the Fifth World Holocaust Forum taking place this week in Israel. Columnist Yahya Rabah slammed the international dignitaries planning to attend because their presence at the ceremony would recognize the Holocaust and turn a blind eye to the "beautiful and spectacular" Palestinian Holocaust by Israel that still continues. "It can be assumed that the Palestinians will resist the ceremony being held in Jerusalem itself, as Jerusalem is theirs," he added. High-level delegations from 49 countries took part in the main event at Yad Vashem on Thur. 23 Jan. 2020, to remember the Holocaust and commit to fighting anti-Semitism.

Israel, UK To Build New, Stronger Relationships;

Israel and the United Kingdom are building a 'new strategic relationship' driven by soaring bilateral trade and deepening ties in various sectors, according to a new report. The increasing strength of the relationship, the report by the Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre (BICOM) states, is symbolized by soaring bilateral trade between the countries. Trade increased by 72% from \$6.1 billion in 2012 to \$10.5b. in 2018, and the UK now represents Israel's third-largest export market, surpassed only by the United States and China. The Brexit referendum and ensuing uncertainty have seemingly not dampened the trading spirit, with Israel becoming the first country to sign a post-Brexit continuity trade agreement with the UK.



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