

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update February 20 2020 ***(25th Shvat, 5780)***

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A golden menorah with seven branches and a bottle of Anointing Oil. The bottle is labeled 'Anointing Oil' and features a picture of a person. The items are set against a white background with a red dashed border.

For the Yachad Report Newsletter For February 2020

UN Blacklist Targets Israeli Companies; The UN Human Rights Council last week published a blacklist of companies operating in Israeli settlements throughout Judea & Samaria, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights, accusing them of raising "particular human rights concerns". The industrial areas of Judea & Samaria employ close to 20,000 Palestinian workers. Many Palestinians hold senior positions and earn up to four times the salaries paid in the Palestinian Authority. Workers also receive the same health benefits, sick leave and vacation time as Israelis. The anti-Israel obsession of the UNHRC is indeed a manifestation of anti-Semitism. The 112 total companies on the list had not even been given prior notice of their presence on it before its release. Only eighteen of the companies on the list were international companies such as Airbnb, Motorola, and Expedia, while ninety-four of them were Israeli companies that include a wide range of banking and construction businesses. Anne Herzberg, UN liaison at NGO Monitor said the list indicated that the UN had "officially decided to endorse the anti-Semitic Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions movement by issuing a defamatory list of companies it says are involved in 'settlement activity,'" claiming it had been created "in conjunction" with anti-Israel organizations.

Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions; BDS refers to the pro-Palestinian Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions movement, whose supporters call for the withdrawal of financial support for the Israeli government in protest of what it deems to be the "poor treatment" of Palestinian people. The BDS movement started on 9 July 2005, when 171 Palestinian civil society organizations banded together and decided to try a new approach to fight Israel's [so called] occupation. Since then, the movement has expanded to include hundreds of campaigns on six continents. They range from pushes for investors such as churches, trade unions, and universities, to divest from companies holding Israeli military contracts, to consumer boycotts, calls for musicians and other artists to cancel appearances in Israel, and demands for governments to impose sanctions. Each of these diverse efforts shares common demands of Israel: end the "occupation" and colonization of Arab lands and demolish its Judea & Samaria separation barrier. It also insists that Israel allow the return of not only original Palestinian refugees - who left the Jewish state willingly decades ago at the behest of Arab leaders and now claim the right to return - but with millions of their second and third-generation progeny. If Israel were to

agree to this Jews would become a minority in their own state. Return of the refugees would put an end to the Jewish homeland.

Much of the BDS in Europe and the USA is connected to radical Islamic groups and Palestinian terror organizations such as Hamas. Hamas and its parent Muslim Brotherhood fuel and direct BDS and anti-Israel political activities on hundreds of university campuses via the Muslim Students Association, with hundreds of chapters in N. America. BDS groups such as American Muslims for Palestine and Students for Justice in Palestine have funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Hamas terrorist group.

Israel Strongly Rejects UNHRC Blacklist Targeting Israel; Israel reacted with indignation at the UN Human Rights Council's unexpected decision last week to release a blacklist of companies that do business in Judea & Samaria. PM Benjamin Netanyahu warned in response, "Whoever boycotts us will be boycotted. In recent years, we have promoted laws in most USA states, which determine that strong action is to be taken against whoever tries to boycott Israel. Therefore, this [UNHRC] body is unimportant. Instead of the organization dealing with human rights, it only tries to disparage Israel. We strongly reject this contemptible effort," the prime minister said. Israel's Foreign Ministry cut ties with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michael Bachelet, hours after her office released the list on Wed. 12 Feb. 2020. Foreign Minister Israel Katz said he took the "exceptional and harsh measure" as her office is "serving the BDS campaign." NGO Monitor Legal Advisor Anne Herzberg commented, "This list was made in conjunction with pro-BDS and PFLP-linked NGOs." The PFLP is the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, designated a terrorist organization by the USA, Japan, Canada, Australia, and the EU, as well as Israel. Herzberg urged that the maligned companies should begin assessing plans to take legal action against the UN officials who prepared the list and those who will propagate its false claims."

Since its beginnings in 2005, BDS has never been invoked against any other country. How does a self-described "human rights" movement single-out the only democracy in the region while ignoring the brutal treatment of women and minorities in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Pakistan. BDS is simply another anti-Semitic hate fest. Jewish history demonstrates that where anti-Semitism becomes legitimate, anti-Semitic violence follows. Almost everything the Nazis said about the Jews is said today by BDS supporters about Israel. There is a worldwide struggle today against the very existence of one country of all countries in the world. It's not North Korea, not Iran, not Sudan. It's only Israel.

Pompeo Blasts UN List of Firms Doing Business in Settlements; USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Thur. 13 Feb. 2020: "I am outraged that High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, published a database of companies operating in Israeli-controlled territories. The United States has long opposed the creation or release of this database, which was mandated by the discredited UN Human Rights Council in 2016. Its publication only confirms the unrelenting anti-Israel bias so prevalent at the United Nations. We call upon all UN member states to join us in rejecting this effort, which facilitates the discriminatory Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction (BDS) campaign and delegitimizes Israel". Likewise USA Sen. Jim Risch (R-Idaho), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the panel's ranking member, Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) slammed the report by the UN human rights body for blacklisting USA companies that operate in the Israeli-controlled parts of Judea & Samaria. "This incredibly biased report is in direct support of the Boycott, Divestment & Sanction movement against our close ally Israel," Risch said. "This list and its public release were driven by politically motivated actors who seek to isolate Israel and undermine its right to exist," said Menendez.

Nikki Haley: UN List of Companies an "Anti-Semitic Blacklist"

Former USA Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley has accused the UN of hitting "a new low" with the publication last week by the world body's Human Rights Council of a list of some 112 companies that it says are operating in Israeli communities in Judea & Samaria. She called it an "anti-Semitic blacklist." Haley served as UN ambassador in 2017 and 2018 and during her term made anti-Israel bias at the UN a central

theme, declaring that she would fight it. Posting on Twitter last week, Haley strongly hinted that she believed the list was published now to sabotage the efforts of President Donald Trump on the heels of his 28 Jan. 2020 announcement of a peace plan for Israel and the Palestinians, which acknowledges the Jewish people's right to their biblical land, including Judea & Samaria. "The timing of this after the USA released a peace plan is conniving & manipulative at best. Shameful," Haley tweeted.

The USA left the UN Human Rights Council in June 2018 due to its anti-Israel slant, with then-USA Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley calling it a "cesspool of political bias." The UNHRC has a permanent agenda item against Israel at its annual sessions. The item calls on Israel to "immediately end its occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory," without any mention of Palestinian violence and terrorism against the Jewish state. The UNHRC has never released a similar blacklist for companies in disputed territories in any other conflict, though there are plenty of others.

Thousands of Ethiopian Jews May be Home by Dec. 2020; Israel's Likud party has pledged to promote immigration to Israel of all the rest of the eligible Jewish Ethiopians. The Likud announced the plan over the weekend and is waiting for approval. By the end of 2020, more than 7500 Ethiopians are expected to have made aliyah. This is in addition to the 400 Falash Mura Ethiopians being brought over in the coming weeks.

Tel Aviv: First Choice Location for Immigrants to Israel; Tel Aviv is Israel's No. 1 ranked destination for aliyah for the fifth year in a row, with 4,419 new olim coming directly to the city in 2019, the Tel Aviv Municipality reported last week. The figures were based on data from the Jewish Agency and the Absorption Ministry, which also showed that most of the olim came from Russia, the USA, and France. However, Tel Aviv also welcomed new immigrants from Singapore, Nepal, Peru, India, and Honduras. The municipality supports new arrivals by offering various programs and workshops to help with finding work. In 2019, over 1,900 people attended the municipality's annual employment fair.

NGOs Call for End to Use of Palestinian Child Soldiers; An estimated 10,000 children are trained in Gazan terrorist camps each year, while at least 160 have died digging terror tunnels into Israel. From 18-21 Feb. 2020, the Coalition to Save Palestinian Child Soldiers is holding a Solidarity Week and is inviting members of the public to sign an open letter to the European Parliament and USA child welfare advocates to condemn the use of Palestinian children as soldiers. "For decades", the letter states, "Palestinian children have fulfilled the role of combatants, human shields, rioters, laborers, support staff, and even as suicide bombers. As a result, their childhoods have been cut short by death, severe injury, or imprisonment. The global community's unwillingness to address the issue has emboldened organizations such as Hamas, Fatah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and PFLP in their exploitation of children as war resources," the letter continues. "A 2016 report found 240 textbooks, used in hundreds of UNRWA-sponsored schools were teaching Arab children between the first and ninth grades to kill Israelis and martyr themselves. It was not, however, until August 2019 that the UN finally called on Palestinian leaders to act against racist speech and hate crimes, including incitement to violence against Israelis and Jews. These organizations expose them to inciteful and violent children's shows, and flood social media with calls for jihad and terrorism," the letter reads. "When the children are older, they're sent out to partake in riots and to act as human shields as thousands of others have before them."

The coalition of NGOs hopes that public pressure put on the terrorist organizations will eventually force them to abandon their use of children to fight their wars. As part of that effort, they are also encouraging people to hold rallies and share materials online to raise awareness of the fact that children are being used in this way. One video, entitled 'Palestinian Child Soldiers in Numbers' notes that 17,000 children were enrolled in Hamas' child militia programs in 2019, and that 29 children have already lost their lives as suicide bombers. "In combat, children from as young as 9 have been pushed into the battle fray to fight and die alongside adult terrorists. Hamas and PIJ have been proud of the teenagers that have been 'martyred' in battle," the organizers noted. "These practices have led to a strategic culture that views children as resources and denies them their

childhoods. For the future of the Palestinian people as a whole and for these children as individuals with rights according to international law and decent moral doctrine, the above practices must be stopped."

USA to Abbas: 'Choose Peace, America Will Be There'; USA Ambassador Craft spoke Tue. 11 Feb. 2020 at a special meeting of the UN Security Council. She urged Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to put aside past grievances and work together with Israel toward a better future for both people. "If you choose the path to peace, America and many other countries will be there," Craft said. Even though the UN meeting had intended to dismiss USA President Donald Trump's plan to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Craft chose a conciliatory approach. She said she wanted to talk about how to move forward toward a brighter future, one that she believed Trump's peace plan promised. Craft did not address the Palestinian frustration with the plan's offer of only a fraction of east Jerusalem, handing them portions of the city on the other side of the barrier. Instead, she said, "this conceptual map represents a historic step toward the establishment of a Palestinian state with a capital in East Jerusalem. The plan also offers them more than 50 billion dollars in investments that would end the cycle of poverty", Craft said. The plan "is an opening offer. It is the beginning of a conversation – not the end of one," she added.

USA Official on Trump Deal: 'Old Way of Doing Things is Over'; In the wake of a caustic UN Security Council debate on Tue. 11 Feb. 2020, during which all member nations except the USA and Israel shunned President Trump's "Deal of the Century", the White House celebrated the withdrawal of a resolution rejecting the plan. The administration reportedly put heavy pressure on critics to drop the measure, introduced by Indonesia and Tunisia, and diplomats gave up at the risk of not having the necessary nine out of 15 votes to secure its passage. "By not putting forward a polarizing resolution, the UN Security Council demonstrated that the old way of doing things is over," said a senior Trump official. "For the first time on the Israeli-Palestinian issue, the Council was willing to think outside the box, and not fall back on the calcified Palestinian position, which has only allowed the failed status quo to continue". Ron Prozor, a former Israeli ambassador to the UN said, "The Palestinians' inability to put forward a vote tonight shows the change that the international community has gone through in recent years. Two years ago, the Palestinians easily recruited many countries willing to vote in favor of a resolution condemning the USA recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The USA vetoed the decision. This time they don't have nine countries behind them," Prozor said. "It shows that countries have different priorities now and they put their own interests first. The failure of the Palestinians on Tuesday to ram a resolution against the Trump Plan through the Security Council is just the latest example of a UN that is no longer an arena where the Palestinians can score a slam dunk at will."

Israeli Ambassador to UN: Abbas Not Dedicated to Peace; Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas is insincere when he says he wants peace, Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon said on Tue. 11 Feb. 2020 at a UN Security Council meeting. The assembly was called to address the Trump administration's Middle East peace plan. The ambassador also called for direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. "If Abbas was truly interested in peace, he wouldn't be here, he would be in Jerusalem," Danon said, referring to former Egyptian president Anwar Sadat speaking in the Knesset before signing a peace treaty with Israel. "Abbas says he wants sovereignty for the Palestinian people, but he has done everything to avoid it. The call for sovereignty has become a battle call, rather than an actual goal, a way to keep the conflict alive," said Danon. He also accused the international community of encouraging Abbas' "rejectionism" by way of their UN voting patterns and by calling for pre1967 lines to be the basis of negotiations. "They apply preconditions that directly contradict previous agreements between the sides," he said, pointing out that Israel and the PLO agreed in the past that future borders would be determined via negotiations. "Why should he negotiate for us, when you're negotiating for him?" Danon also praised USA President Donald Trump's "sane approach" in trying a different way to make peace and not "accepting out-of-date concepts and a formula that has failed for over 70 years."

1st Jewish Museum In Madrid To Open In 2022; Madrid Mayor, José Luis Martínez-Almeida, announced last week that the municipality has agreed to grant it the use of a building in the city center to create a Jewish museum. Spain was once home to the largest Jewish community in the world. The 1492 expulsion presented them with the choice to leave all and flee, or to convert to Catholicism, putting an end to centuries of flourishing Jewish life. This rich and tragic history will be presented in the Madrid-based Jewish museum, which is set to open in 2022. One of the goals of the museum will be to highlight 3,000 years of Jewish contributions to Spain and the rest of the world, emphasizing the importance of shared Judeo-Christian values and roots. About 45,000 Jews live in the country today, mostly in Madrid (20,000) and Barcelona (15,000), according to the European Jewish Congress.

Israel's Haredi Mom of 5 Wins Miami Half-Marathon Race; Beatie Deutsch, 30, who moved to Israel from New Jersey in 2009, is known for running in a skirt, sleeves that fall below her elbows, and a headscarf. On Sunday 9 Feb. 2020 this Haredi Orthodox mother of five won the half-marathon at the 18th annual LifeTime Miami Marathon and Half Marathon event. She finished in a time of 1:16:4 to win in the women's category. In May 2019 Deutsch was the top female finisher in a 13-mile half-marathon race in Riga, Latvia, becoming the first ultra-Orthodox woman to win an international athletic competition. Beatie, all of 4' 11" tall, is also known affectionately as "Speedy Beatie."

Israel's Judoka Peter Paltchik Takes Home the Gold; Israeli judoka Peter Paltchik won the gold medal at the Paris Grand Slam on Sunday 9 Feb. 2020, defeating Olympic silver medalist Varlam Liparteliani in the under-100-kilogram category. Paltchik, currently ranked sixth in the world, is the first Israeli judoka to take gold in the Paris Grand Slam since Arik Zeevi in 2004. Paltchik is considered one of Israel's top athletes and a potential Tokyo 2020 Olympic medalist. In 2018, Paltchik brought home several medals, taking gold at The Hague Grand Prix, the Grand Prix Tbilisi, Georgia and at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, which led to Israel's national anthem, Hatikvah, being played for the first time at a Gulf State sporting contest. (Israel Hayom)

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