

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update April 16, 2020 (22th Nisan, 5780)

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Israel: Total Lockdown on Eve of Passover; Israelis came under a complete lockdown beginning on Wed. afternoon 8 April 2020 through at least Friday 10 April 2020 to hinder the spread of the coronavirus during the Passover holiday. PM Benjamin Netanyahu announced the closure on Monday evening 6 April 2020 in a nationally televised speech from his official residence in Jerusalem. Israelis were informed they would not be permitted to leave their houses on Wed. evening, 8 April 2020, the night of the first Passover seder, from 6 p.m. until 7 a.m. the following day. Netanyahu hinted Israel may begin to ease some restrictions after Passover and the holiday of Mimouna, a less widely observed Jewish holiday which takes place the day after the end of Passover. “I know this is a big burden, but there is no choice. I ask that you do this in self-discipline for your sake and for your loved ones – for the police and medical teams,” Netanyahu said. “On Purim, the virus spread. I’m telling you now clearly, Pesach will not be Purim. Every family will do Pesach with their immediate family,” Netanyahu added.

Israel's Orthodox Communities See Highest Coronavirus Increase; The Haredi population has been hardest hit; both in Israel and around the world, as its traditionally insular way of life and heavy emphasis on community have created a perfect storm for the virus to spread. The authorities have major concerns that the desire to celebrate the Passover holiday will lead many in the community to ignore Health Ministry directives and gather in large numbers. Presently, the ratio of COVID-19 infection in ultra-Orthodox communities surpasses the national rate of infection - which has doubled itself - with the highest rate of coronavirus outbreak going to the northern Haredi town of Rekhasim. In Bnei Brak, which has been under a government lockdown for the past few days, the number of patients has jumped from 410 on Sunday, 29 March 2020 to 1,300 02 on Monday 6 April 2020. The Bnei Brak Municipality announced that out of those coronavirus patients in the city, 23 were in serious condition. City residents who wanted to be evacuated were evacuated to hotels. In the Haredi settlement of Modi'in Illit, the number of cases has risen from 30 last week to 117 this week, quadrupling in numbers with a 3.9 infection ration, doubling the national average of 2.0.

BDS: Israeli-Invented Vaccine OK for Boycotter's Use

The founder of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel said this week in an Arab media interview that if Israel invents a vaccine for the coronavirus, those who reject normalization with Israel

by boycotting it can still be given the vaccine. However, Omar Barghouti continued that Israel should not be allowed to use the coronavirus crisis to maintain relations with the Palestinian Authority and with other Arab states. He also said: "if you use medical equipment from Israel - not a problem. Cooperating with Israel against the virus – to begin with, we do not consider it normalization. The same is true of other medical breakthroughs, he said. "If Israel finds a cure for cancer, for example, or any other virus, then there is no problem in cooperating with Israel to save millions of lives."

Please continue to pray against this anti-Semitic anti-Israel movement. BDS activity started in July 2005, when 171 Palestinian civil society organizations banded together and decided to try a new approach to fight the 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. BDS has never been invoked against any other country...only Israel. Meanwhile, BDS advocates continue to use without any sense of gratitude or honor Israel's breakthrough medical devices and medications, technical inventions, and a long list of other world-benefiting innovations.

Coronavirus: UK Prime Minister Johnson Moved To ICU

A Downing Street Statement on Monday 6 April 2020 informed the nation that following a ten-day fight with coronavirus the PM Johnson had been transferred to Intensive Care: "Since Sunday evening, [5 April 2020] the Prime Minister has been under the care of doctors at St Thomas' Hospital, in London. Over the course of this afternoon, the condition of the Prime Minister has worsened and, on the advice of his medical team, he has been moved to the Intensive Care Unit at the hospital." The PM has asked Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, who is the First Secretary of State, to deputize for him where necessary. The PM is receiving excellent care, and thanks to all NHS staff for their hard work and dedication. Johnson, 55, tested positive for the virus on 26 March 2020.



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