

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update June 11, 2020 (19th Sivan, 5780)

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Jewish, Immigrant-Owned Establishments Targeted Nationwide; On the heels of the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis Police officer, Derek Chauvin, protests have emerged in all 50 US states, and over 40 countries worldwide. The majority have been peaceful demonstrations, but several have devolved into riots after dark—opening the door for looters, provocateurs, and other opportunists. Law enforcement officials in Minnesota have claimed that white supremacists, and even organized crime, have seized upon the chaos to inflict damage on immigrant communities and institutions—including black, East African, and Jewish-owned establishments. In Los Angeles, a number of kosher stores and synagogues were vandalized. In addition, several kosher restaurants, bakeries and stores were ransacked and looted, causing extensive property damage. Liora Rez, Director of the Stop Antisemitism watchdog, condemned the actions of the vandals, saying that “once again we see vile antisemitism being disguised as activism. To vandalize a synagogue during this horrific time does nothing but further divide a broken country.”

Israelis and Americans Show Solidarity with Peaceful Protest; A crowd of around 200 Israelis and Americans of all colors assembled outside the Tel Aviv branch of the US Embassy in Israel Tuesday night to stage a peaceful demonstration in honor of George Floyd. Protesters held signs reading “I can’t breathe,” some of the last words the 46-year-old African American man had managed to squeeze out, as he was lying on the street in Minneapolis, Minnesota under the knee of a police officer. The officer pressed down on Floyd’s neck for around eight minutes until he died—after trying to arrest him over an alleged counterfeit \$20 bill. The incident of police brutality was caught on camera, and the backlash from the disturbing video has shaken the United States and Americans living across the globe. American expatriate Shoshana Feldman felt compelled to organize in response to the act, despite now living in Tel Aviv. “If I don’t stand up, no one will. And white people have to know that an injustice anywhere is an injustice everywhere,” Feldman said. “I hope that the States feel the international pressure.”

Trump Tweet Censored - But Why Not Khamenei’s? Last week, US President Donald Trump took to Twitter to issue a threat against the Minneapolis George Floyd protestors, quoting former Miami Police Chief Walter Headley, saying in part, “when the looting starts, the shooting starts.” The tweet violated the

platform's rules about promoting or inciting violence, and was hidden under a gray box that viewers must click to uncover. Twitter rules dictate: "You cannot make specific threats of violence or desire serious physical harm, death or illness to an individual or group of people." But, when Iran's Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei compared Israeli Jews to "cancer," Twitter did not apply the rule. No gray box appeared on Khamenei's tweet depicting the destruction of Israel and the words "final solution." Khamenei later clarified that the expression "final solution" did not refer to the Jews, but "only" to Israel, concluding his new tweet with the textual words: "Eliminating Israel & it will happen."

Iran Stockpiles Uranium in Response to US Withdrawal from JCPOA In 2015, Iran signed a nuclear deal with the United States, Germany, France, Britain, China, and Russia known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA. However, Iran has gradually scaled back its compliance with the deal in response to US President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the agreement in May of 2018. The ultimate goal of the JCPOA is to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear bomb. But since the US withdrawal, Iran has stockpiled enough uranium to produce a weapon, although the government in Tehran insists it has no such goal and that its atomic program is only for producing energy. With the nuclear deal in place, Iran's so-called breakout time — the period Tehran would need to build a bomb if it chose to — stood at around a year. As Iran has stepped away from the limits of the 2015 deal, it slowly has narrowed that window.

Declassified German Report: Syrian Student Makes Anti-Semitic Remark; A previously classified German intelligence report on Wednesday revealed widespread Islamic-animating antisemitism among Muslim organizations in the federal republic. The German paper *Süddeutsche Zeitung* first reported on the document that it is "a special file of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution." The federal office (BfV), which is the rough equivalent of the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency), noted in the file that a Syrian vocational student declared on June 4, 2018, in the city of Solingen in the middle of his lesson that "all Jews belong in the gas chamber." The report said that on June 2, 2018, the recording clerk for a branch of the German-Turkish radical Islamic association *Furkan* told his guests that with respect to the children of Israel — the Jews — "don't be like beings that are worth less than animals." He added that the Jews were cursed and that they betrayed Moses.

Global Report: Israel is the World's Third Best Start-Up Ecosystem; Evaluating innovation ecosystems in 100 countries and 1,000 cities globally, StartupBlink ranks locations according to the quantity and quality of start-ups and supporting organizations, and factors including ease of doing business and investment. "Israel is known as the 'start-up nation' for a good reason... It is a relatively small country which makes a substantial impact on the global start-up ecosystem... There are a wide variety of verticals where Israel excels, from autonomous driving (Mobileye, Waze), advertising (Taboola), services (Fiverr), and much more," the authors of the report said. Moreover, the authors said, Israel represents a "shining example" of innovation to other countries courtesy of its ability to become a global hub despite a complicated geopolitical environment, and substantial tax revenues earned by the country from exits and high salaries. All this was done without public sector guidance, the authors add. Yet the local ecosystem has benefited from "the creation of the world's biggest start-up accelerator" — the Israeli army.

Violence Directed Toward LA Jewish Community; Congregation Beth Israel in the Fairfax district in Los Angeles was vandalized with graffiti reading "Free Palestine" as protests against the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis darkened the city last weekend. Kehillas Yaakov synagogue in Los Angeles was also vandalized with anti-Semitic graffiti. On the same day, the window of a synagogue in Richmond, Virginia, was smashed during protests. A number of kosher restaurants, bakeries, and stores were ransacked by protesters, looting much of the merchandise and causing extensive property damage.

Lie: Linking Murder In Minneapolis To Israel's Defense Against Terror; Some of those looking to exploit the tragedy in Minneapolis are attacking Jews. They are asserting that Jewish groups that have

facilitated trips to Israel by American first responders and police are somehow responsible for killings of unarmed blacks by USA policeman. This is not only untrue, it's a classic example of an anti-Semitic blood libel since it seeks to blame Jews for crimes for which they bear no responsibility. The training Americans get in Israel actually focuses on the antithesis of stereotypical police brutality by seeking to promote community engagement and nonviolent policing that would make confrontations less likely. The mission of the Israel Defense Forces is to defend the people of Israel against foes which have not given them a day of peace in the 72-year history of the country. Its record in protecting civilian lives, including Palestinians who are used as human shields by terrorists, is unmatched. Inter-sectionalism is a thinly disguised form of anti-Semitism. It is vital that all decent people reject the attempts to smear Israel and its American friends by associating them with incidents like the Minneapolis murder.

Printable Hands Being Made For Amputee Children; Scientists from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology have been creating prosthetic hands for amputee children, an info-video revealed this week. The finished prosthetic is able to hold lightweight objects and provide the children with a better sense of balance. The most immediate benefit is psychological, as the children no longer feel that their amputation makes them unusual and instead have a "cool bionic hand" to impress their friends with. Scientists from the Technion have been innovative 3D printing technology.

AI Becomes Israeli Lifeguard At The Beach; An Israeli startup Sightbit is using artificial intelligence (AI) tech to alert lifeguards when swimmers are in danger. "Sightbit is, in essence, an AI lifeguard - so our software acts as an additional lifeguard by flagging threats to swimmers," said co-founder Minna Shezaf. Special cameras are used to film the beach's swim areas and algorithms analyze the footage in real-time to flag incidences. "We display alerts on a monitor, which is stationed at the lifeguard tower. We also sound alarms when swimmers are in danger."



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