

# **Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update July 9, 2020 (17<sup>th</sup> Tamuz, 5780)**



## **[For the Yachad Report Newsletter For July 2020](#)**

***Russia, Turkey, and Iran Coordinate Anti-US Syria Policy Slamming Israel;*** Russia, Turkey, and Iran held a virtual meeting on Wednesday to coordinate efforts in Syria. They have been holding similar meetings since 2017 as part of what is called the Astana process. Their goals have increasingly converged and their statement this week appeared aimed at undermining the US role in eastern Syria and isolating US partner forces. In October 2019, Turkey threatened US forces in Syria and ordered the US to leave, attacking the SDF until Russia and the Syrian regime brokered a ceasefire with Ankara that saw Russia deploy forces to areas formerly under US influence. US President Donald Trump has vowed to withdraw from Syria but has been critiqued for abandoning US partners who sacrificed thousands of lives fighting ISIS.

***Israel's Rafael, IAI Work with UAE Counterpart to Combat Coronavirus;*** In a historic move, the United Arab Emirates's (UAE) leading technology company Group 42 (G42) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with two Israeli hi-tech companies: Rafael Advanced Defense Systems (Rafael) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). The three companies plan on exploring collaborations in research and development in order to offer effective solutions against the novel COVID-19. The companies, which celebrated their cooperation in a virtual signing ceremony, intend to use each one of their fields of expertise and technologies to develop medical initiatives to combat coronavirus. UAE's G42 has been working hard since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic to provide effective solutions relating to the deadly virus, including a recent end-to-end detection solution found in cooperation with Oxford Nanopore Technologies.

***Israel Aerospace Industries to Cooperate with UAE;*** Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has signed a historic collaboration agreement with Group 42 from Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. The companies will collaborate in the fields of research and development in an attempt to find solutions to help combat the coronavirus. The UAE and Israel have no official diplomatic ties, with Jordan and Egypt being the only two Arab countries to have signed peace treaties with Israel. Arab states in the Gulf, including the UAE, have increasingly built informal ties with Israel in recent years amid shared concerns over Iran. Last month, a flight undertaken by Etihad Airways -- the UAE's flag carrier -- laden with COVID-19 related medical supplies for the Palestinian Authority made a rare landing in Tel Aviv. While the UAE has been critical of

Israel's plan to apply sovereignty over Judea and Samaria, its Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Anwar Mohammed Gargash, said two weeks ago, "I think we can have a political disagreement with Israel and try to bridge other differences."

***Israeli Court Hands Messianic Congregation Legal Victory;*** A Messianic congregation in Israel scored a legal victory against the anti-assimilation organization Yad L'Achim, the congregation's pastor announced. Pastor Israel Pochtar of Beit Hallel in Ashdod wrote that a court issued an order preventing activists from Yad L'Achim from coming within 100 meters of the congregation or the homes of its members. Pochtar claimed that the congregation had endured "nine years of systemic oppression" from Yad L'Achim, which held weekly demonstrations outside the congregation to protest what it views as missionary activity. "They have called time and time again for actions against us, declaring their goal is to stop our work completely and drive us out of the city," Pochtar said. Pochtar posted a video in which he walked through a group of Orthodox demonstrators who were singing by the entrance to the congregation. He claimed that the protesters intimidated and frightened congregants who came to worship. The Beit Hallel website states that the congregation seeks "to bring the Gospel of our Messiah, Jesus, to the people of Israel."

***New Hampshire Lawmakers Send Bill Requiring Holocaust Education to Governor;*** If Gov. Chris Sununu, a Republican, signs the measure into law, New Hampshire would become the 14th state to require genocide prevention education in public schools, according to the Anti-Defamation League's New England regional office, which supported the bill. The bill will enable all students to acquire knowledge of civics and government, economics, history, and Holocaust and genocide education, according to state Sen. Jay Kahn, a Democrat and lead sponsor of the bill. The House approved the bill this week in a 299-17 vote as part of several other pieces of legislation. The state Senate had passed the measure unanimously in March. In its most recent audit on anti-Semitism, ADL documented 2,107 incidents across the country in 2019, the highest since the group began tracking incidents in 1979. Of the total, 411 of the incidents were in K-12 schools, representing a 19% increase from the previous year.

***Haifa University Ranks above Major Universities in Shanghai Ranking;*** The global university index system Shanghai Ranking ranked Haifa University above not only all other Israeli universities but also renowned higher learning institutes across the world for educational studies. The index grades and prioritizes universities around the globe based on a variety of factors, including Nobel Prize winners, published research, and more. Haifa University's new status was announced by Shanghai Ranking on July 1. The northern school in Israel, located on Mount Carmel in Haifa, ranked in the top 76-100 universities in the world for education studies above schools such as Cambridge University and Oxford University in England, and Yale University and Brown University in the United States. "The high position of the University of Haifa in a wide range of fields is indicative of the success of many years of processes inside and outside the Carmel campus walls," said Haifa University Ron Robin.

***Israeli Start-up Develops Digital Practice Saxophone;*** The Israeli start-up Emeo Team on Friday launched the Emeo, the first-ever digital practice saxophone, which allows saxophone players to practice and play anywhere, as long as the device is hooked up to their computers or smartphones. The device has already received international acclaim, with famed Italian jazz saxophonist Rosario Giuliani saying, "It is an incredible invention that you can play everywhere." The Emeo connects to the devices using USB, MIDI, and Bluetooth and offers a cutting edge solution to the problem of the inherently loud volume of the saxophone, limiting sax players greatly in the manner in which they may practice and play. The device is not intended to replace the various types of regular saxophones, but rather that the Emeo offers a comfortable solution for practicing conveniently. It is available for pre-order, and the devices are expected to be sent out throughout August.

***Young Israel Condemns Anti-Semitism at Black Lives Matter March;*** The National Council of Young Israel (NCYI) on Thursday called on elected officials and leaders in the African-American community to condemn the linkage of the Black Lives Matter movement to the anti-Semitic BDS movement, after protesters chanted anti-Israel and anti-Semitic phrases at a march that took place this week in Washington, DC. Cries of “Black lives matter!” and “Palestinian lives matter!” were heard, and many attendees loudly criticized Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. “While we absolutely agree that the issue of race in America is something that must be duly addressed on a national level, it is sickening to see that the Black Lives Matter movement has been co-opted by people who wear their anti-Semitic beliefs on their sleeves,” said NCYI President Farley Weiss. “By poisoning protests with anti-Israel declarations and anti-Semitic remarks, some of the individuals who so desperately seek justice and an end to racism are themselves engaging in abhorrent and hypocritical behavior that fans the flames of bigotry and hate,” he added.

***At Least Nine Pro-Iranian Fighters Killed in Alleged Israeli Airstrike;*** At least nine pro-Iranian militia members were killed in an alleged Israeli airstrike targeting military positions in Syria’s al-Bukamal on Saturday night, just hours after the commander of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards Corps’ Quds Force, Esmail Ghaani had reportedly been at the site. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said nine members of pro-Iranian militias, including four Syrian nationals, were killed in the airstrikes “targeting positions of regime forces and Iranian militias in the village of Al-Abbas in the countryside of Al-Bukamal city, east of Deir ez-Zor.” The strikes, blamed on Israel, came hours after Iran’s Tasnim news agency reported that Ghaani had traveled to al-Bukamal to visit troops. The Syrian town near the Iraqi border is known as a key weapons conduit and where Iran has a network of pro-Iranian militias. The report was quickly deleted by Tasnim but photographs of Ghaani were published and shared online. During the visit, he also gave a speech accusing Israel and the United States of establishing ISIS and describing them as “two criminal regimes whose conspiracies have not yet ended.”

***Iranian Economy Collapsing Due to US Sanctions and Coronavirus;*** The US sanctions, together with the coronavirus outbreak, have caused Iran’s economy to tank. According to estimates by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Iran’s profits for this year will be \$2 billion - thirty times less than during the period before the US sanctions were implemented. Currently, Iran sells less than 200,000 barrels of crude oil per day, and possibly less than 100,000, down from nearly 4 million per day in 2017. At least 40% of Iran’s budget is based on the country’s crude oil sales, and an additional and significant portion of its profits are dependent on the oil. Iranian Finance Minister Farhad Dejjpasand, admits “we don’t have any profits from crude oil.” Even if the sanctions are removed, he said, the country “will not be able to cover its losses. We need to find new sources of income.” Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, Iran’s deficit reached 70% of its budget. On Sunday, Iran reported that 125 people had been confirmed to have died of coronavirus. Meanwhile, Iran’s currency, the rial, dropped after its central bank reported 41.3% inflation. Iran currently has 10 million people unemployed, for a nearly 20% unemployment rate.

***German Intel: Iran 'Massively Promotes Antisemitism, Israel hatred';*** Iran’s clerical regime is a leading sponsor of Jew-hatred, the domestic intelligence agency for the city-state of Berlin disclosed June 25 in a report on antisemitism. “Antisemitism and hatred of Israel were also massively promoted by the Islamic Republic of Iran,” the intelligence officials wrote. “The leader of the Iranian Revolution Ayatollah Khomeini already described Israel as the ‘little Satan’ and openly called for the destruction of Israel. Antisemitism has been part of Iran’s state ideology ever since [the founding of the Islamic Republic] and is regularly fueled by statements by state representatives.” US administrations under both President Barack Obama and President Donald Trump have classified Iran’s regime as the world’s worst state sponsor of terrorism.

***Cyberattack Disrupts Israel Philharmonic Orchestra’s Online Gala;*** A suspected cyber attack disrupted a live virtual gala held by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, making it impossible to view for most of the 13,000 people worldwide who had registered. The Sunday afternoon attack on the fundraiser, which

was trying to help the orchestra overcome losses due to COVID-19, crashed the websites of the orchestra and its gala partner, Medici.TV. Shortly after the attack, the orchestra was able to share a replay of the event on its YouTube channel. The full gala is available to view now on YouTube. Oscar-winner Helen Mirren hosted a program that included short performances by the orchestra's new conductor, Lahav Shani, and its musicians, as well as friends of the orchestra including Pinchas Zukerman and Amanda Forsyth, Yefim Bronfman, Itzhak Perlman, Evgeny Kissin, András Schiff, Gil Shaham, Chen Reiss, and Martin Frost. "It seems that hackers were determined to silence our message and stamp out our voice, but they will not succeed," said Danielle Ames Spivak, executive director of American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, which collaborated with the orchestra and the IPO Foundation on the event. "More than ever, we are determined to spread the Israel Philharmonic's message of hope, peace, and beauty around the world

***China Forces 1,000s of Muslims to Undergo Sterilizations and Abortions;*** Surgical sterilizations, abortions, and other birth control measures are being forced upon Muslim women in China to make minorities "disappear", says a horrifying report. The totalitarian regime is trying to slash its Muslim population, while encouraging some of the country's Han majority to have more kids, the agency adds. Its investigative report on the brutal treatment of women of child-bearing age has been released alongside disturbing new research by China scholar Adrian Zenz. He has warned, "By 2019, Xinjiang planned to subject at least 80 percent of women of childbearing age to intrusive birth prevention surgeries - IUDs or sterilizations "Draconian measures that impose surgical birth control methods enable the state to increase or decrease minority population growth at will, akin to opening or closing a faucet." The Chinese government has long struggled with its 11-million-strong Uighur population, an ethnic Turkic minority native to the northwestern region of Xinjiang. In recent years the regime has detained more than one million Uighurs and other minorities in its so-called "re-education" camps. Having too many children is a major reason people are sent to detention camps, with the parents of three or more ripped away from their families unless they can pay huge fines.

***House Democrats Letter to Pompeo: Cut Aid to Israel if it Applies Sovereignty;*** Four House Democrats have written to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo calling on the United States to cut assistance to Israel should it proceed to apply sovereignty over Judea and Samaria. The letter was initiated by Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Pramila Jayapal of Washington, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, and Betty McCollum of Minnesota. The letter to Pompeo is circulating among Democrats in a bid to add signatures. "Should the Israeli government move forward with the planned annexation with this administration's acquiescence, we will work to ensure non-recognition as well as pursue conditions on the \$3.8 billion in U.S. military funding to Israel, including human rights conditions and withholding funds for the off-shore procurement of Israeli weapons equal to or exceeding the amount the Israeli government spends annually to fund settlements, as well as the policies and practices that sustain and enable them," it says, according to a copy obtained by Jewish Insider. In response to the letter, AIPAC has launched a campaign against it, saying on Twitter on Monday that it "explicitly threatens the US-Israel relationship in ways that would damage American interests, risk the security of Israel & make a two-state solution less likely."

***Israel Among Top 10 Global Startup-Friendly Locations;*** The Israeli technology ecosystem maintains its global leadership position. A comprehensive global survey held by Startup Genome maps the global startup industry in over 150 cities worldwide, has ranked Tel Aviv and Jerusalem together as the sixth most attractive ecosystem for startups and innovation. The Startup Genome Ecosystem report, which is published annually since 2012, is the most comprehensive research of the global startup scene. This year's report was issued as 40% of the startups across the globe report disruptions to their operations due to the COVID-19 spread. In addition to reviews and ratings of the global cities, the report provides insights and tools to leaders of publicly-traded companies who seek to nurture a thriving urban ecosystem, as well as leveraging the existing resources for the day after COVID-19. For the first time, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem have been ranked together due to their geographical proximity. However, the report provides separate reviews of the specific advantages and strengths of each. California's Silicon Valley ranks first in this year's report, followed by New York City

and London in the 2nd and 3rd places. Beijing and Boston rank fourth and fifth, respectively. The top ten list concludes with Los Angeles, Shanghai, Seattle, and Stockholm.



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