

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update May 13, 2021 ***(2nd Sivan, 5781)***



[For the Yachad Report Newsletter For May 2021](#)

Barrage of Rockets Launched at Tel Aviv from the Gaza Strip; Tel Aviv came under a barrage of 130 rockets launched by Hamas from the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, sending residents fleeing for shelter as air raid sirens blared across Israel's second-largest city. Israel's anti-rocket defense systems were activated Tuesday night, with the streaks of multiple interceptor missiles lighting up the skies over the area. The heavy bombardment came in retaliation for an Israeli strike earlier on Tuesday evening that leveled a high-rise building in Gaza, which housed the offices of several top Hamas officials. That strike had come in retaliation for earlier Hamas bombings. Both sides had been firing at each other almost nonstop throughout the day, in some of the worst fighting between Israel and the terror group since their 2014 war.

After Deadly Missile Attack, Israel Kills Top Hamas Officers; Israeli warplanes and artillery continued to strike the Gaza Strip Wednesday afternoon, as terrorists in the Strip fired rockets and at least one anti-tank missile into Israeli territory. The latest wave of Israeli retaliatory airstrikes targeted senior Hamas military commanders in Gaza City in the northern Gaza Strip, and in Khan Younis in the south. Several commanders from Hamas General Staff Forum were eliminated Wednesday, including several officials close to Mohammed Deif, the supreme military commander of Hamas' Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades.

Arab Israeli Killed Amid Violent Riots by Arab Mob in Lod; An Arab Israeli man was shot and killed and two others were wounded during protests and riots by local Arab residents overnight Monday-Tuesday in the central city of Lod. A Jewish suspect in the shooting was arrested. According to Israel Radio, the violent protest, during which Arab participants raised Palestinian and Hamas flags, called to "liberate Palestine," and attacked a school, a synagogue, a pre-army military academy and city hall, was one of several large demonstrations in Arab communities. Reports said the victims were part of a mob throwing stones and firebombs at Jewish-owned homes in the Arab-Jewish city in central Israel and were shot by Jewish residents in what Jewish witnesses said was self-defense. The Arab demonstrators also set fires and tore down street signs.

Harrowing Scenes of Violence in Jewish-Arab Cities; Defense Minister Benny Gantz issues a statement responding to the brutal rioting taking place across the country in which Arab and Jewish mobs have targeted

innocent bystanders. “On this evening, more than ever, our internal divisions are what threatens us. They are no less dangerous than Hamas’s missiles,” Gantz says. “We must not win the battle in Gaza and lose the battle at home. The harsh images from the cities and streets tonight are Israelis tearing each other apart. The shocking violence in Bat Yam, Acre, Lod, and other cities turns our stomachs and breaks the hearts of us all,” he adds.

Netanyahu Pledges to “Bring Rule of Law to Israel’s Cities with an Iron Fist”; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to crack down on rioters on Wednesday, after Arabs in mixed cities attacked their Jewish neighbors’ homes, synagogues, and businesses. “We are in a struggle on multiple fronts,” Netanyahu said on a visit to Acre. “Last night, after the discussions and decisions at the Defense Ministry about the Gaza Strip, I went to Lod at 2 a.m., another front that opened up with anarchy.” Netanyahu pointed to the extra police and Border Patrol officers sent with emergency powers to Lod and Acre following the violence, and said the government will continue efforts to “stop the anarchy and bring back the rule of law to Israel’s cities with an iron fist if need be, with all the forces and authority necessary.”

Anti-Israel Protests Held Around the World Following Dramatic Escalation of Violence; Protests have broken out around the world in support of Palestinians amid the violent clashes with Israel in the Gaza Strip. The disputed area is under the most intense bombardment since 2014, with Israel unleashing a huge firestorm on the territory in response to Hamas missiles. Thousands in New York, Washington DC, London, Istanbul and other major cities across the globe have taken to the streets to show their support for Palestine, often directing their protests at Israeli embassies and buildings. Following weeks of tensions and clashes in contested Jerusalem led by Israeli security forces, the renewed confrontation escalated on Monday evening when Hamas fired a barrage of missiles towards Jerusalem. It continued into the early hours of Wednesday morning, with more rockets being fired by the Islamist group into Tel Aviv, and by Israel into Gaza. The Palestinian death toll was at 36 on Wednesday morning, with ten children among the dead, while five Israelis are believed to have been killed in the conflict so far. The United Nations has warned the two sides they risk a ‘full-scale war’ if there is not an urgent ceasefire.

Japanese Politician: “Our Heart is With Israel”; A prominent Japanese politician is expressing his support for Israel during the present difficult circumstances of ongoing rocket attacks from Gaza. Yasuhide Nakayama, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, in a tweet stated that “our heart is with Israel.” “What would you do? One day, more than 300 rockets were suddenly shot by terrorists in 24 hours, robbing the lives of their beloved family and their homes. Israel has the right to protect itself from terrorists. Who was the first to shoot a rocket at the general public?” tweeted Nakayama who was previously Japan’s state minister of defense. The Simon Wiesenthal Centre thanked Nakayama for his support of Israel in a retweet.

Iran Now Enriching Uranium to 63% Purity; Iran has enriched uranium to 63-percent purity, higher than the 60% it has announced, which is already way beyond the 3.67% allowed under the 2015 nuclear deal, a report said Tuesday, citing a document by the International Atomic Energy Agency. “According to Iran, fluctuations of the enrichment levels... were experienced,” the UN nuclear watchdog said in a confidential report. “The agency’s analysis of the ES [environmental samples] taken on 22 April 2021 shows an enrichment level of up to 63% U-235, which is consistent with the fluctuations of the enrichment levels [described by Iran],” the document said.

Two Israelis Dead, Over 90 Injured After Rockets Strike Ashkelon, Ashdod; Two women were killed and more than 90 people were injured on Tuesday after rockets, fired from the Gaza Strip, slammed into a number of homes in Ashkelon and Ashdod. Four of the injured were members of the same family. One of the women was in her 80s and the other was in her 60s. The four family members were evacuated to Ashkelon’s Barzilai Medical Center. Authorities said that the 40-year-old father was in moderate-to-serious condition

suffering from injuries to his head. The mother, 39, was in moderate condition and the children suffered from light injuries. Of those injured on Tuesday, five were children, 26 were in light condition, 13 were suffering from anxiety, one person was moderately injured and two other people were seriously injured.

IDF Hits 130 Targets in Gaza, Kills 15; Israeli forces struck over 100 targets across the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip overnight in response to a series of rocket attacks, an IDF spokesperson said Tuesday morning. More than 130 targets were hit by Israeli airstrikes late Monday night and early Tuesday morning, after militants operating out of the Gaza Strip launched over 200 rockets into Israeli territory. During the first and second wave of airstrikes, collectively dubbed ‘Operation Guardian of the Walls’, Israeli Air Force fighter aircraft, attack helicopters, and army drones struck weapons manufacturing facilities operated by Hamas.

UN Urges Israel to Exercise ‘Maximum Restraint, Calibrate Use of Force’ in Gaza; UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is “gravely concerned” by the ongoing escalation in Israel and Gaza, his spokesman says in a statement. Guterres “is deeply saddened to learn of increasingly large numbers of casualties, including children, from Israeli airstrikes in Gaza, and of Israeli fatalities from rockets launched from Gaza,” the statement says. Guterres calls on Israeli security forces to “exercise maximum restraint and calibrate their use of force,” while adding that the “indiscriminate launching of rockets and mortars towards Israeli population centers” by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad is “unacceptable.” “This spiraling escalation must cease immediately,” the statement continues. “The United Nations is working with all relevant parties to de-escalate the situation urgently.”

Egypt, Qatar, and the UN Urge Hamas to End Violence Against Israel; Egypt, Qatar, and the United Nations have contacted Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in an attempt to prevent a major confrontation between the Gaza-based terrorist groups and Israel, sources close to Hamas said Monday night. Haniyeh, who is based in Qatar, phoned Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and briefed him on the current situation in the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem, the sources said. “Our decision and the decision of the Palestinian people is to defend al-Aqsa Mosque and Jerusalem,” Haniyeh was quoted as telling Erdogan. “This is not the battle of the Jerusalem residents alone, but the battle of all of Palestine and all Muslims.” Leaders of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and other terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip threatened to step up their attacks on Israel in response to Israeli attacks on the Hamas-ruled coastal enclave.



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