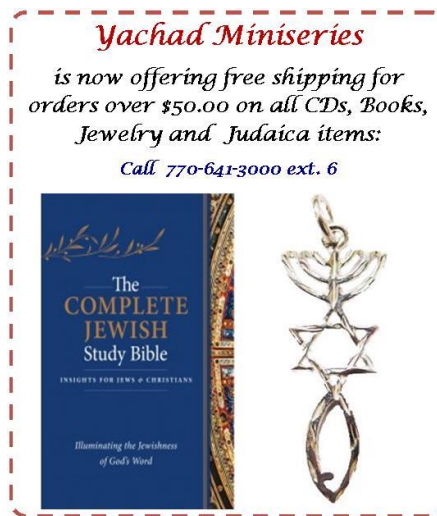


# ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update July 01, 2021 (21<sup>th</sup> Tamuz, 5781)***



## **[For the Yachad Report Newsletter For July 2021](#)**

***Israel Delays Entry of Vaccinated Tourists until August due to COVID Uptick;*** Vaccinated foreign tourists are not going to be allowed into Israel before August 1, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's government decided Wednesday, as Israel faces an increase in coronavirus cases. In addition, the obligation to wear masks indoors will be restored if the average daily cases will exceed 100 for a week. "Our goal at the moment, first and foremost, is to protect the citizens of Israel from the Delta variant which is raging in the world," Bennett said. "At the same time, we want to reduce as much as possible the disruption to daily life in the country. Therefore, we decided to act as early as possible – right now – so as not to pay a heavier price later on, by taking responsible and quick actions.

***Honduras Becomes 4th Country to Open Embassy in Jerusalem;*** Honduras officially moved its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem on Thursday in the presence of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and visiting Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández. "Mr. President, you are a true friend of Israel," Bennett told Hernández shortly before the inauguration ceremony at the Technological Park in the Malha neighborhood of Jerusalem. "The Jewish people have a long memory, and you will be recorded in the pages of history as having done a brave and justified deed for the State of Israel." Thursday's ceremony made Honduras the fourth country to open an embassy in Jerusalem, following the United States, Guatemala, and Kosovo.

***PA Upset after Honduras Opens Embassy in Jerusalem;*** The Palestinian Authority (PA) "foreign affairs ministry" on Thursday strongly condemned the relocation of the Honduran embassy to Jerusalem, calling it a "blatant violation of international law and clear UN decisions regarding the holy city and its legal and political status." "It is unfortunate that the President of Honduras has decided to be on the wrong side of history and take this hostile step against the Palestinian people, while the occupying force is working to escalate violations of rights against the Palestinian people and implement its racist plan in Jerusalem to establish the occupation and destroy any real opportunity for just and comprehensive peace," said the bureau in a statement. The "ministry of foreign affairs" stated that this decision completely contradicts the decision made by Honduras on August 26, 2011, recognizing the state of "Palestine" with eastern Jerusalem as its capital.

***Biden Admin. Walks Back Recognition of Golan Heights;*** The Biden Administration is quietly walking back the US recognition of Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. A State Department official stopped short of saying that the administration still recognized the Golan Heights as part of Israel, which the Trump Administration recognized in 2019, calling Israel's control of the strategic territory a "practical matter." "As long as [Bashar al-Assad] is in power in Syria, as long as Iran is present in Syria, militia groups backed by Iran, the Assad regime itself—all of these pose a significant security threat to Israel, and as a practical matter, the control of the Golan remains of real importance to Israel's security," the official said. The Beacon called the policy shift a "significant blow" to Israel.

***Hamas Leader to Israel: Allow Transfer of \$30M from Qatar or Head to Escalation;*** Hamas plans to escalate tensions with Israel unless it allows Qatar to transfer \$30 million to the Gaza Strip to help pay salaries. The terrorist group's leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, met on Sunday with the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland and pressed him on the matter. A discouraged Sinwar briefed reporters on the failure of the talks with the UN envoy and accused Israel of blackmail, calling for popular resistance while pledging to convene a meeting of all the Palestinian factions to unite their efforts. Israel and the UN are particularly concerned about the resumption of Qatar cash payments out of fear that Hamas will use the funds to rebuild its military capabilities, significantly weakened during the latest round of violence last month.

***IDF Chief Warns US Against Rejoining Iran Nuclear Deal;*** Military chief Aviv Kohavi warned American officials against their government's plan to reenter the 2015 nuclear deal this week during a visit to Washington, DC, as part of a last-ditch effort by Israel to affect the ongoing negotiations between the United States and Iran in Vienna. The Israel Defense Forces chief of staff arrived in the United States on Sunday, June 20, and spent the past two days in meetings with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley and US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin in the Pentagon, the military said. "The chief of staff presented the failures of the current nuclear deal, which allow Iran to make significant advances in the coming years in the quantity and quality of centrifuges and in the amount and quality of enriched uranium, and he stressed the lack of oversight in the area of developing a nuclear weapon," the IDF said in a statement.

***Iran Nuclear Centrifuge Facility Substantially Damaged in Attack;*** A sabotage operation against one of the buildings of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO) caused major damage – despite Iranian denials, The Jerusalem Post learned on Wednesday night. Although Iran has claimed throughout the day that the sabotage failed and caused no damage or casualties, the Post has been given strong indications otherwise, though it has no way to independently confirm. The Post also reported that the attacked site was likely one of Iran's centrifuge manufacturing sites, which meant a major setback for the Islamic Republic's uranium enrichment program for nuclear weapons.

***Israelis Construct First-Ever 'Blue-And-White' CAR T Cancer Treatment;*** A team of Israeli scientists and doctors have developed the country's first blue-and-white CAR T immunotherapy for the treatment of multiple myeloma, potentially giving thousands of sick patients access to this life-saving treatment. Multiple myeloma is a still incurable cancer within the spongy bone marrow. A Phase I clinical trial kicked off during the COVID-19 pandemic. So far, seven patients have received the treatment, and it is proving safe and effective.

***Shin Bet Reports Dramatic Increase in West Bank Attacks on Israelis;*** A month after Operation Guardian of the Walls, the IDF continues to struggle to maintain calm in the West Bank. With Israel's attention focused on the Gaza Strip, the flames of violence in the West Bank are at risk of exploding. According to the Shin Bet's (Israel Security Agency) data, there were 592 attacks in the West Bank and another 178 in Jerusalem in May, compared to a total of 104 in April (80 in the West Bank and 24 in

Jerusalem). The May attacks included 401 fire bombings, 33 pipe bombs, 87 arson attacks, 47 small-arms fire, two grenade attacks, one vehicular attack, and others. One Israeli civilian, Yehuda Guetta, was also killed in a shooting attack at the Tapuah junction in early May by 44-year-old Muntasir Shalabi.

***Israeli Researchers Measure Continuous Traumatic Stress from Rockets;*** Israeli scientists have created a new and unique methodology to measure rocket attacks' impact on traumatic stress. Published in the open-access online academic journal PLOS ONE, the study by researchers from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev worked to identify three very distinct factors: exhaustion/detachment, rage/betrayal, and fear/helplessness. The study examined 313 adults who either were or were not exposed to ongoing security threats from December 2016 to February 2017. The exposed participants lived in communities along the Gaza border area in southern Israel, where rocket attacks from Gaza are frequent and there is often a window of only 30 seconds to reach a shelter.

***Israel Delays Entry of Vaccinated Tourists Until August Due to COVID Uptick;*** Vaccinated foreign tourists are not going to be allowed in Israel before August 1, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's government decided Wednesday as Israel faces an increase in coronavirus cases. In addition, the obligation to wear masks indoors will be restored if the average daily cases will exceed 100 for a week. "Our goal at the moment, first and foremost, is to protect the citizens of Israel from the Delta variant which is raging in the world," Bennett said. "At the same time, we want to reduce as much as possible the disruption to the daily life in the country. Therefore, we decided to act as early as possible, right now, so as not to pay a heavier price later on, by taking responsible and quick actions. It is up to us. If we adhere to the rules and act responsibly, we will succeed together."

***Christian Converts Put on Trial in Iran for Threatening State;*** Three Christians are standing trial in Iran after a new amendment to the Iranian penal code was passed through the legislature. The Christian defendants of the Church of Iran denomination of Christianity were put on trial in Karaj in northern Iran on Monday after converting to Christianity, being charged with "sectarian" activities. The defendants, Amin Khaki, Milad Goudarzi, and Alireza Nourmohammadi, originally stem from Muslim backgrounds.

***Iran Official Says US has Agreed to Lift Oil, Shipping Sanctions;*** Iran said on Wednesday that Washington had agreed to remove all sanctions on Iran's oil and shipping, and take some senior figures off a blacklist, at talks to revive Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with global powers which are now on a pause. The remarks, by outgoing President Hassan Rouhani's chief of staff, were consistent with previous assertions by officials in Rouhani's pragmatist camp that Washington is prepared to make major concessions at the talks, underway since April in Vienna. The talks adjourned on Sunday for a break, two days after Iran held a presidential election won by hardliner Ebrahim Raisi, the head of Iran's judiciary who is on the US blacklist. Raisi is due to replace Rouhani in August.

***Iran Claims Sabotage of its Atomic Energy Organization Failed;*** A sabotage operation against one of the buildings of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (AEO) in Karaj, near Tehran, failed and caused no damage or casualties on Wednesday morning, according to Iranian media. The incident is under investigation by Iranian authorities. According to Iran's Mehr News Agency, a quadcopter was used in an attempt to sabotage a building at the AEO, but failed and was eventually shot down. Earlier in the day, the Iranian ILNA news agency reported that a drone attack targeted the Barakat Pharmaceutical Industries complex in Karaj, which is developing a coronavirus vaccine but subsequently removed the report from their website.

***Israel Has Already Tested a Digital Shekel Cryptocurrency;*** Israel has already conducted a pilot test of a digital shekel cryptocurrency, Bank of Israel Deputy Governor Andrew Abir said, perhaps inadvertently, at a recent conference of the Fair Value Forum of IDC Herzliya. Toward the end of a panel discussion, Abir said

the Bank of Israel had already run a digital currency pilot. Another member of the panel seemed surprised and asked: “You have already issued a coin?” Abir responded in the affirmative. However, Abir said he was not optimistic that such a central-bank digital currency (CBDC) would ever be launched.

***True Faith. Incredible Hardship;*** Ambushed and stoned by terrorists. In self-defense, he responded by shooting at the ground to drive them away. A few years later, in 2002, Boaz tragically lost his wife and 3 of their children in a separate terror attack. Still, Boaz is such an inspiration to us—having lived through tragedies that most of us will never experience, yet keeping an optimistic outlook on life.

***German Media Giant: If You’re Anti-Israel, Don’t Work for Us;*** Workers who complained about an Israeli flag being posted outside Europe’s largest digital publishing house should look for new jobs, Axel Springer SE CEO Mathias Döpfner told the company’s 16,000 employees last Thursday. “I think, and I’m being very frank with you, a person who has an issue with an Israeli flag being raised for one week here, after anti-Semitic demonstrations, should look for a new job,” he said in a video conference with employees around the world. Berlin-based Axel Springer, which was founded in West Germany in 1946, is the largest digital publisher in Europe. It owns Bild, Die Welt, Business Insider, Politico Europe, and many other news brands, as well as Israel’s largest classified-ads website, Yad2.



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