

# ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update July 15, 2021*** **(6<sup>th</sup> Av, 5781)**



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

***Biden Admin. Slams Israel for Demolishing Mansion of Wealthy Terrorist;*** On Thursday, the IDF demolished the mansion of Muntasir Shalabi who shot three young yeshiva students in a drive-by shooting attack at a bus stop at the Tapuah Junction in Shomron, murdering Yehuda Guetta, age 19. “As we stated numerous times, the home of an entire family should not be demolished for the actions of one individual,” a spokesman from the US Embassy said. “We believe it is critical for all parties to refrain from unilateral steps that exacerbate tensions and undercut efforts to advance a negotiated two-state solution, this certainly includes the punitive demolition of Palestinian homes.” the statement said. An unnamed official in the Prime Minister’s Office said that while Prime Minister Naftali Bennett “respects” the United States, Israel must act in the interest of its citizens.

***Israeli PM Bennett Holds Secret Meeting with Jordan's Abdullah;*** Prime Minister Naftali Bennett secretly met with Jordan’s King Abdullah at his palace in Amman last week, as the two countries finalize a major water deal in advance of their separate trips to Washington later this summer. Such meetings between former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and King Abdullah were rare and had not happened for several years due to rising tensions between the two countries. At last week's meeting, Bennett and Abdullah agreed that the two countries must heal that rift. As a step in that direction, they spoke of a water deal.

***Israeli Expertise Brings Closure to Surfside Disaster in Matter of Days;*** The operation to search for survivors and bodies in the rubble of the collapsed Champlain Towers South condominium building in Surfside, Florida, a suburb of Miami, has been ongoing for two weeks. Sixty-four people have so far been confirmed dead and 76 are officially still missing. On Thursday, June 24, at roughly 1:25 am Eastern Daylight Time, the 12-story building collapsed suddenly, with some reports stating that long-term degradation and structural issues were to blame for the incident. By Friday, an Israeli task force was onsite, sifting through the upper layers of rubble in 12-hour shifts. The Israeli government conveyed offers of help from the Israel Defense Forces’ Home Front Command search and rescue team, which has become a world-leading expert after assisting in many other disasters around the world.

***Israeli Officer Recovers Jewish Holy Books in Florida Condo Rubble;*** Col. Golan Vach and his crew worked alongside local rescuers to locate the bodies of a Jewish couple buried in the debris where the Champlain Towers South condo once stood, the Miami Herald reported. As he gathered their personal belongings Tuesday, Vach noticed that many of the books he came across were from the Talmud, the central text of Rabbinic Judaism and the primary source of Jewish religious law. Commenters around the globe took note of the symbolism of rescuers saving holy texts amid the tragedy, in which the death toll Thursday stood at 54, with 86 people still unaccounted for.

***Israel Unveils Major Discovery from Jerusalem's Second Temple Era;*** Israeli archaeologists have reportedly discovered an opulent building where VIPs and members of the elite were likely welcomed on their way to visit the nearby Temple Mount some 2,000 years ago. "This is, without doubt, one of the most magnificent public buildings from the Second Temple period that has ever been uncovered outside the Temple Mount walls in Jerusalem," Shlomit Weksler-Bdolach, excavation director on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority, told the Jerusalem Post on Thursday. The grandiose structure will soon be part of the Western Wall Tunnels itinerary, offering visitors a glimpse into life during the first century, the IAA and the Western Wall Heritage Foundation said.

***Iranians Chant 'Death to Khamenei' During Mass Protests over Power Blackouts Blamed on Heatwave and Cryptocurrency Mining Farms;*** Power shortages in Iran have given rise to widespread blackouts and triggered protests in the streets. Outgoing president Hassan Rouhani apologized to Iranians on Tuesday over the massive power outages which have come amid a heatwave, with temperatures reaching 50 degrees celsius. Officials have blamed the blackouts on surging demand for power, along with low rainfall cutting hydroelectric output and illegal cryptocurrency mining farms accessing subsidized electricity. According to videos posted on social media, protests turned political in some areas, with people chanting 'Death to the dictator' and 'Death to (Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali) Khamenei' and other slogans during blackouts.

***Israeli Scientists Create the World's Thinnest Tech - Just 2 Atoms Thick;*** Researchers at Tel Aviv University have made a new scientific breakthrough, engineering what is currently the single smallest and thinnest piece of technology ever seen, and it has the thickness of just two atoms. The result of a multi-disciplinary effort from TAU's Raymond and Beverly Sackler schools of Physics and Astronomy and of Chemistry, the findings of the study were published in Science magazine. But this breakthrough isn't just defined by its size. Rather, it also possesses useful utility. Essentially, the technology works by using quantum-mechanical electron tunneling, which allows information to travel through the thin film.

***Iran Power Outage Crisis Leads Politicians to Slam Their Own Policy;*** Power outages are causing disruptions across Iran and protests are increasing. Pro-government media have now admitted that outages are taking place and warn that things could get worse. Mohammad Qalibaf, the speaker of parliament, appeared to criticize the government's policies this week with a post about how the "frequent power outages throughout the country and disruption of people's lives and businesses require planning and management. If the increase in consumption and excess demand is not compensated in the short term for any reason, at least stick to the announced blackout schedule so that people can plan for problems." Iraq is also suffering unprecedented electricity supply problems and this has been made worse by terror attacks on power lines in Iraq. This means that a whole swathe of territory from Jordan to Pakistan is suffering both extreme heat and power outages.

***Boston Rabbi Says It's a 'Miracle' He Survived Stab Attack;*** The rabbi stabbed eight times outside a Jewish day school in Boston said it was a "miracle" he survived — as he recalled the broad daylight attack in a new interview. Rabbi Shlomo Noginski — speaking through a translator to i24News in Tel Aviv— recalled the terrifying attack on Thursday, July 1, outside of the school where more than 100 children were attending

summer camp. "I would like to say thank God. A miracle, a great miracle happened to me," Noginski said. "He only managed to stab me eight times in my arm and my limbs but it could have been much worse. I feel relatively great and I thank God for the miracle." At first, Noginski said the suspect, Khaled Awad, 24, approached him with a gun, demanding he open his car. Figuring it was a robbery, Noginski offered his keys to his attacker, he told i24.

***Gantz: Israel Ready to Provide Assistance to Lebanon Amid Economic Crisis;*** Defense Minister Benny Gantz has offered to assist Lebanon as it continues to suffer from a worsening economic crisis. "As an Israeli, as a Jew, and as a human being, my heart aches seeing the images of people going hungry on the streets of Lebanon," he wrote Sunday on Twitter. "Israel has offered assistance to Lebanon in the past, and even today we are ready to act and to encourage other countries to extend a helping hand to Lebanon so that it will once again flourish and emerge from its state of crisis." Lebanon is suffering from a worsening economic crisis, with violence and protests breaking out in cities around the country as basic services collapse. Electricity outages and gas shortages are commonplace. More than half of Lebanon's population is living in poverty, and its financial crisis is likely to rank in the top 10, and possibly even the top three, most severe crises in the world since the mid-1800s, according to the World Bank.

***Yeshiva Students Obligated to Enlist After Court Deadline for Law Expires;*** A law that allowed the Defense Ministry to perpetually defer enlistment for Haredi yeshiva students technically expired on Monday, although the state has now asked for a six-month extension to pass a new law. As of midnight on Monday, the defense minister is no longer able to grant military service deferrals to ultra-Orthodox yeshiva students after the deadline, given by the High Court of Justice in February to pass a new law, ran out. Technically, the state and the Defense Ministry are now obligated to draft yeshiva students who turn 18 from Tuesday, although this will surely not happen. On Monday, the state requested another six-month extension from the court to give the government time to pass a new law to regulate the standing of yeshiva students who seek to defer their enlistment until they are over the maximum age of military service. This is the state's 10th request for an extension to the severely complex and divisive issue since the High Court ruled in 2017 that blanket deferrals from enlistment were discriminatory and illegal.

***New Israeli Plan Looks to Reduce Bureaucracy in Government Offices;*** The government has declared war on excessive levels of regulation and bureaucracy. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman, Justice Minister Gideon Sa'ar, and Deputy Minister in the PMO Abir Kara presented a new government plan to significantly reduce excess bureaucracy in government offices. The new legislation will help turn Israel into a paradise for small and medium-sized businesses, Bennett said. "Part of the reason that Israel's hi-tech sector is so successful is that it is not subject to all of the types of regulations that a pizzeria in Rishon Lezion has to follow." The plan includes the enactment of a regulatory framework law that will establish long-term infrastructure for the formulation of regulation in Israel and the establishment of a regulatory authority that will oversee new regulatory processes, and work to reduce the excessive regulatory burden. The law will establish principles for optimal regulation based on international standards, promoting a competitive economy, reducing the cost of living, and adapting to the needs of small and medium-sized businesses.

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