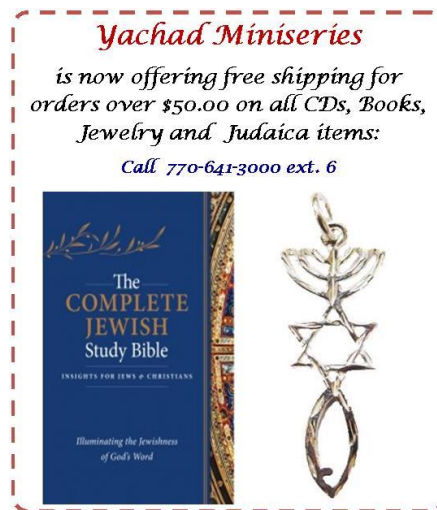


Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update July 29, 2021 **(20th Av, 5781)**



For the Yachad Report Newsletter For July 2021

Israel to Join African Union as Observer after Being Kept Out for 2 Decades; Israel will be joining the African Union as an observer state, the Foreign Ministry announced Thursday. Israel's ambassador to Addis Ababa, Aleleign Admasu, submitted Israel's charter as an observer member to the 55-member continental organization. "This is a day of celebration for Israel-Africa relations," said Foreign Minister Yair Lapid. "This diplomatic achievement is the result of efforts by the Foreign Ministry, the African Division, and Israeli embassies on the continent." "This corrects the anomaly that existed for almost two decades," Lapid continued, "and is an important part of strengthening of fabric of Israel's foreign relations. This will help us strengthen our activities in the continent and in the organization's member states

Israel to Become First in World to Test Oravax Oral Covid-19 Vaccine; Israel is about to become the first country in the world to test the oral COVID-19 vaccine developed by Oramed Pharmaceuticals, the company's CEO Nadav Kidron said. Oramed's subsidiary, Oravax Medical, is gearing up to commence clinical trials of its vaccine at Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv after receiving approval for its study protocol from the hospital's Institutional Review Board. It is now waiting for approval from the Health Ministry, which is expected within a few weeks. Oravax already completed GMP manufacturing in Europe of several thousand capsules that would be available for the Israeli trial and eventually in other countries. Kidron said the new Oravax vaccine candidate targets three structural proteins of the novel coronavirus, as opposed to the single spike protein targeted by the current Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. As such, "this vaccine should be much more resistant to COVID-19 variants," he said. "Even if the virus gets through one line, there is a second line, and if through the second line, there is a third." The vaccine is being tested in preclinical studies against COVID-19 variants, including the Delta one.

PM Naftali Bennett Speaks to UAE Crown Prince; Prime Minister Naftali Bennett spoke to the crown prince of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, on Friday and sent him well-wishes for Eid al-Adha. Bennett also thanked him for opening the UAE embassy in Israel and hosting Foreign Minister MK Yair Lapid when he visited. He also underlined the importance of strategic relations between the two countries.

This Is What Caused a Mysterious Gaza City Explosion; IDF Arabic Spokesman Avichay Adraee on Thursday explained on Twitter what caused a mysterious explosion in Gaza City. The explosion, which occurred Thursday morning in a civilian area with many stores, reportedly left one person dead and at least ten others wounded and caused a great deal of damage to stores and other buildings at the site. According to Adraee, the Islamic Jihad terror group bears responsibility for the explosion in Gaza City's marketplace. "We warned them in the past, but they did not wake up!" Adraee tweeted in Arabic. "This morning, an explosion of great force shook a weapons storehouse belonging to the Islamic Jihad terror group - in the heart of the al-Zawiya marketplace, in the center of Gaza City. The explosion caused deaths and injuries, as well as destruction of the site and a great deal of damage."

160 French Olim Arrive in Israel on Special Flight; A group of 160 French Jews making Aliyah arrived in Israel Wednesday, on a special flight from Paris organized by The Jewish Agency for Israel and the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration. The new immigrants were accompanied by the Minister of Aliyah and Integration Pnina Tamano-Shata, who was returning from a tour of the Jewish community in France due to growing interest in Aliyah in that country. According to the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration and The Jewish Agency, Israel has seen a 137% jump in the number of new immigrants from France so far during 2021 compared to the same period last year. Although Aliyah during 2020 declined by almost 40% due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a dramatic increase in the opening of new Aliyah files, including from France – where 6,053 files were opened compared to 2,475 in 2019. Among the 160 immigrants who landed on Wednesday night were doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers, and marketing and media professionals, as well as 46 young people under the age of 18 who will enter the Israeli education system

Five Dead During Iran Water Shortage Protests; Street protests over water shortages spread from the oil-rich southwestern Khuzestan province to a nearby area overnight where one youth was shot dead with pellet guns and seven were injured, a police official said, blaming "counter-revolutionaries." "The people showed their displeasure, but we cannot really blame the people because the issue of water is not a small one especially in Khuzestan's hot climate," Khamenei was quoted by state TV as saying, about the protests. At least one policeman and three young men had been shot dead in earlier protests. Officials have blamed "rioters," but activists said that the protesters were killed by security forces in Khuzestan on social media. Amnesty International said on Friday at least eight people have been killed during the week-long crackdown.

Algerian Judoka Quits Olympics for Having to Compete Against Israeli; Algerian judoka Fethi Nourine has reportedly forfeited his place in the Olympics as he was told he would have to face Israeli judoka Tohar Butbul, Israeli media reported on Thursday. The two Judokas would have faced each other in the second round if both were to progress. According to reports, Nourine said "we will not recognize the Israeli flag and we will not stain our hands with it" to Algerian media. Tohar Butbul is set to face Sudanese Judoka Mohamed Abdalarasool in the first round.

Unprecedented Memorial Ceremony for 1972 Israeli Olympic Team; A year late due to, and in the shadow of COVID-19, the opening ceremony of the 2020 Olympic Games was held on Friday in Tokyo, the capital of Japan. The 32nd Olympics were supposed to take place in the summer of 2020 but were postponed after the outbreak of the virus. The games in Japan will be held without an audience and will end on August 8. The International Olympic Committee, which for years has vehemently opposed any memorial service in memory of Israeli athletes during the 1972 Munich Olympics in Germany, arguing that politics should not be involved in sports, has for the first time ever approved a moment of silence in the athletes' memory. After each previous Olympics, the Israeli delegation has held a memorial service at the Israeli ambassador's house in the country where the Olympic Games are held and not in the Olympic Village, due to opposition from the Olympic Committee. This time, the massacre by Arab terrorists was mentioned in the official opening

ceremony. The Israeli delegation was in tears at the news that the International Olympic Committee would allow a ceremony in memory of the martyrs.

Antisemitism Rose 365% in UK Amid Gaza Conflict; The UK suffered its worst-ever outbreak of anti-Semitic fervor in a one-month period from May to June this year since records began in 1984, with a massive increase in antisemitism during this period coming against the background of the conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. According to a new Community Security Trust (CST) report, an organization that tracks antisemitism in the UK, a total of 628 anti-Semitic hate incidents took place between May 8 and June 7, more than four times the number of incidents during the same period in 2020 and the month prior to May 8, 2021. Of the total 628 incidents in the period in question, 585 involved language, imagery, or behavior linked to the conflict in Israel and Gaza, and 112 incidents were of individuals targeting random Jewish people or Jewish neighborhoods with shouts of “Free Palestine,” Palestinian flags or both, including explicitly abusive or threatening language or gestures intended to offend and intimidate. CST said it does not treat slogans such as “Free Palestine” or “Free Gaza” as anti-Semitic in and of themselves, unless they are used to deliberately target the Jewish community in an abusive way, such as addressing them specifically to Jews or spray-painting such words on a synagogue.

Israel-Morocco Ties Strengthen with Signing of First Cyber-defense Deal; Israel and Morocco have signed their first-ever cyber-defense accord in a signal that fledgling official relations between the two countries have continued to advance. Israel National Cyber Directorate Yigal Unna signed a deal this past week in Rabat with his Moroccan counterpart Gen. El Mostafa Rabii and Morocco’s Minister Delegate in charge of National Defense Administration Abdellatif Loudiyi. “The accord is for operational cooperation, research and development, and the sharing of information and knowledge,” the Foreign Ministry said. On Friday, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid tweeted that he had “a long and warm conversation” with his counterpart Nasser Bourita. A direct connection between the countries and their peoples is a top Israeli priority

Israel Expected to Require All Travelers Entering the Country to Self-Isolate; Israel is likely to soon impose mandatory quarantine on all travelers — including the vaccinated and those who have recovered from COVID-19 — entering the country, aiming to stem the resurgence of the coronavirus, according to television reports Monday evening. The development came as more than 1,100 cases were diagnosed in the country as of Monday at 10 p.m., and as authorities urged Israelis to avoid unnecessary international travel due to rising global COVID-19 cases, but said the government was not currently weighing closing the country’s borders again. The Health Ministry is expected to recommend a self-isolation period of between four and seven days to the coronavirus cabinet during a Tuesday meeting, and ministers are expected to approve such a move.

Israeli President Sends Germany Condolences over Flood Deaths, Offers Aid; President Isaac Herzog said Saturday night that he has sent a letter to his German counterpart, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, expressing condolences for Germans killed in the lethal flood that hit Western Europe, and offering any assistance Israel can provide. “On behalf of the people of Israel, I sent a special letter of condolences and my deepest sympathy to German President Frank Walter Steinmeier and to the German people upon the recent disastrous floods, which resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives and thousands of still missing and displaced persons,” Herzog said. “I agree with the president of Germany, that the challenge of global warming, which contributed to this calamity, requires us all to make a special effort. I stated that we would be willing to help in any way,” he added.

Canada Pushes to Place Sanctions on Circumcision; New regulations in Canada threaten to limit the performance of one of the most important Torah commandments: Brit Milah (circumcision). The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba issued new standards of practice which, as written, would only permit a male infant circumcision to be performed in a medical facility or doctor’s office. The college says its proposed

practice standard is being developed to minimize risks around a range of specific office-based medical procedures, with male circumcision among many outlined in the draft. This restriction would go into effect in the fall and would effectively ban brit milah, the Jewish rite that was first described as being performed by Abraham in the Bible. The commandment welcomes each Jewish baby boy into God's covenant on the eighth day after his birth and is performed by the vast majority of Jewish parents including those who self-define as secular. The CPSM received about 200 written responses from the Jewish community objecting to the change, including a lengthy statement from the Winnipeg Council of Rabbis. "We want to assure the public that the standard will not infringe on any human or religious rights and freedoms whatsoever," Dr. Ziomek added. The CPSM updated its website last week, promising to revise its guidelines regarding religious circumcision.

New York Supermarkets Pull Ben & Jerry's over Israel Boycott; Ben & Jerry's ice cream is being pulled from the shelves of several supermarket chains in New York since the company announced its plans to boycott Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria and East Jerusalem, according to a report. Seasons, an upscale kosher supermarket chain located in New York and New Jersey, sent a message to customers Monday. They said, "Seasons has removed all Ben and Jerry's products from all its stores as a result of the ice cream maker's decision to cease sales in parts of Israel." According to the New York Post, Morton Williams Supermarkets' board of directors met Monday evening to discuss and agree to "reduce the Ben & Jerry's products it sells in its 16 stores by 70 percent." The board also agreed to stop promoting the ice cream company in the weekly circulars. "You'll be able to find the product, but you'll have to look for it," Kaner said.

ZOA Calls to Remove Ben & Jerry's Kosher Label Following Boycott; Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) President Morton Klein blasted Ben & Jerry's ice cream company on Tuesday while calling for the removal of its kosher certification after the Vermont-based company announced plans to boycott Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria and East Jerusalem. Morton Klein expressed outrage over the recent boycott by the famed company that stated in a notice on its website on Monday that, "We believe it is inconsistent with our values for Ben & Jerry's ice cream to be sold in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)." Calling on the kosher certification agency that grants the company's kosher label to discontinue certification, Klein explained that "kosher" conduct should entail more than ingredients. "In addition, we believe that [their Kosher certifier] must discontinue certifying Ben & Jerry's products as kosher," he said. "It's not kosher to aid Arab terrorists and bigots who boycott Jewish people living in the Jewish homeland."

Canadian Jewish Organization Condemns Torching of Churches; A Canadian Jewish organization on Tuesday issued a statement of condemnation after a series of churches in the province of British Columbia were torched in what is believed to be in reaction to the confirmation of more than a thousand unmarked graves at several former residential school sites. The most recent such incident occurred in the Whalley neighborhood in Surrey early Monday morning. The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) condemned the arson attacks, saying, "Deeply troubling. Another church destroyed by a suspicious fire. We were angered and deeply saddened to learn about the destruction of the St. George Coptic orthodox church in Surrey, BC". "Five other churches in BC have been targeted. We condemn these acts of violence, we stand in solidarity with those impacted, and we note that Indigenous leaders have roundly rejected these attacks stating they do nothing to help Canada's first peoples," added CIJA.

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