

## ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update October 14, 2021 (8<sup>th</sup> Cheshvan, 5782)***



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

***Iran Claims to Have 80% of Uranium Needed to Build Nuclear Bomb;*** Iran has enriched more than 120 kg. of 20% enriched uranium, the head of its atomic energy organization, Mohammad Eslami, said Saturday evening, October 9, state news agency IRNA reported. "We have passed 120 kilograms," IRNA quoted him as saying. "We have more than that figure." "Our people know well that they [Western powers] were meant to give us the enriched fuel at 20% to use in the Tehran reactor, but they haven't done so," Eslami said. "If our colleagues do not do it, we would naturally have problems with the lack of fuel for the Tehran reactor." If true, the numbers could be considered a major jump forward in uranium enrichment, potentially toward a nuclear weapon if Tehran made the choice to try and break the nuclear threshold. Last month, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran had 84.3 kg. of uranium enriched to 20%. According to the Jewish Institute for National Security of America, 155 kg. of 20% enriched uranium would be enough to eventually be scaled up to weaponized uranium for a nuclear bomb. That would mean 120 kg. would be almost 80% of the way there. According to a recent JINSA report, "Iran is actively reducing the growth of its stockpile of 20% enriched uranium, which represents nine-tenths of the effort to achieve fissile material. Since starting in January, Iran cumulatively has enriched an estimated 152 kg. uranium to 20% at a rate of 19 kg./month." JINSA said: "To limit its stockpile, Iran has been converting some of it to uranium metal, which, while worrisome because this process is one of the steps to a nuclear weapon, means this material can no longer be used to enrich fissile material." In recent weeks, Tehran has given mixed messages about whether it would return to nuclear talks with the US and world powers and rejoin the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action's nuclear-deal limits in exchange for Washington lifting sanctions or whether it is stalling for some other purpose. In the meantime, since mid-September, the IAEA has heavily criticized Iran for blocking its access and disabling some of its nuclear monitoring equipment.

***Azerbaijan Says No Israelis on Border, Warns Against Iran 'Provocations';*** Azerbaijan's State Border Service (SBS) rejected claims by Iranian officials that Israeli forces are present in Azerbaijan near the Iranian border, saying that Azerbaijan "does not need the support of foreign forces." Ahmed Ali Goudarzi, commander of Iran's Border Guard, claimed last week that Israeli forces are present in "sensitive areas" in neighboring countries and conducting intelligence and espionage work, advising Muslim countries "not to allow this," according to Iranian state broadcaster IRIB. The commander additionally claimed that Israel incited neighboring countries to take action concerning their borders or impose large tolls on heavy vehicles,

an apparent reference to fees imposed on Iranian truck drivers by Azerbaijan recently. The Azeri SBS stated in response that there never have been, are not and never will be forces of any third country on Azerbaijan's border, according to the Azeri APA news source. The SBS added that it does not need the support of foreign forces. The SBS additionally stressed that Azerbaijan has the sovereign right to apply border and customs control on roads that cross through Azeri territory. The statement added that, despite weekly meetings taking place at various levels between Azerbaijani and Iranian border guards, no information concerning the allegations of foreign forces in Azerbaijan was ever given to the SBS, according to APA. The SBS warned that "any provocations directed at the state interests of the Republic of Azerbaijani in the state border will be resolutely prevented also from now" and recommended that Iranian officials "be more responsible, and avoid spreading false and defamatory information." Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian also made claims of an Israeli presence along the Azerbaijani-Iranian border on Monday, warning against Israeli provocative actions from Azerbaijani territory, according to Iranian media.

***ISIS Claims Responsibility for Afghan Mosque Attack that Killed 46;*** ISIS has claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that killed at least 46 worshippers and wounded dozens more Friday, October 8, at a Shiite mosque in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz. The local Islamic State affiliate, known as ISIS-K, claimed responsibility for the blast at the Gozar-e-Sayed Abad Mosque on its Telegram channels, according to Reuters. The same group carried out the Aug. 26 bombing that killed at least 169 Afghans and 13 American troops outside the Kabul airport in the final days of the chaotic US pullout. Afghanistan's state-run Bakhtar news agency said that at least 46 people had been killed and 143 others wounded, Reuters reported. However, two health officials told the outlet the death toll could rise to between 70 and 80. Friday's blast took place during midday prayers, the highlight of the Muslim religious week. It was the deadliest act of violence in the war-torn country since US and NATO forces pulled out after the Taliban took control in August. Graphic footage showed bloodied bodies surrounded by debris inside the mosque while bloodstains covered the front steps. The explosion blew out windows, charred the ceiling and scattered debris and twisted metal across the floor. The worshippers targeted Friday were Hazaras, who have long suffered from double discrimination as an ethnic minority and as followers of Shiite Islam in a majority-Sunni country. Earlier this week, a report by Amnesty International found the Taliban unlawfully killed 13 Hazaras, including a 17-year-old girl, in Daykundi province, after members of the Western-backed government's security forces surrendered. The United Nations mission in Afghanistan condemned the attack as "part of a disturbing pattern of violence" targeting religious institutions. Since reconquering Afghanistan, the Taliban have been grappling with the growing threat from ISIS-K. Taliban fighters have been targeted in a series of deadly ISIS attacks in recent weeks, including shooting ambushes and a Sunday bombing outside a mosque in Kabul that killed at least five civilians. ISIS has also targeted Afghanistan's religious minorities in attacks meant to stir up sectarian violence.

***Hamas Declares Victory after Court Reinstates Ban Against Jews Praying on Temple Mount;*** Jews barely got a chance to act on the court ruling allowing them to pray silently at their holiest site before the court reversed its decision in what Hamas declared a victory that could be credited to their missile attacks. The story began when last Wednesday, October 6, when Justice Bilha Yahalom of Jerusalem's Magistrate Court accepted an appeal by Temple Mount activist Rabbi Aryeh Lipo against the police ban on prayer on the Temple Mount. Lippo had been banned from the site for 15 days by the Israeli police after he was caught praying silently during a visit on Yom Kippur. Israel's High Court has ruled that Jewish prayer at the site is legally protected but the police may impose restrictions based on security considerations. The Israeli police appealed the decision. "The State of Israel advocates freedom of worship and prayer for all, however, in view of the security implications, the status quo must be upheld that the prayer of Jews on the Temple Mount will take place next to the Western Wall and the prayer of Muslims will take place in al-Haram al-Sharif," Public Security Minister Omer Bar-Lev said on Friday, using the Arabic name for the Temple Mount. The ruling was decried by the Palestinians. The Waqf, the custodial authority which managed the edifices on the Temple

Mount, called the ruling a “flagrant violation” of the compound’s sanctity and a “clear provocation” for Muslims worldwide. “This decision also has no legitimacy because we do not recognize Israeli law on al-Aqsa,” mosque director Sheikh Omar al-Kiswani told AFP. Hamas, the ruling party in Gaza recognized by many countries around the world as a terrorist organization, called the move a “blatant aggression against the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and a clear declaration of a war that goes beyond political rights to an aggression against religion and sanctities”. The group said in a statement that the “resistance is ready and prepared to repel aggression and defend rights.” On Friday, October 8, thousands of Palestinians arrived at the Temple Mount for morning prayers and took the opportunity to hold a massive protest. The same day, the court accepted the police’s appeal. Aryeh Romanov, the judge ruling over the case at the Jerusalem District Court, stated on Friday that the rules on the Temple Mount forbid “religious/ritual activities having external, visible characteristics,” stressing that the fact that the police officer noticed Lipo praying proved that his prayer was visible and therefore forbidden.

***Aliyah Up 31% in 2021;*** Aliyah (immigration) to Israel has bounced back strongly in 2021 so far with some 20,360 arriving in Israel to date, compared to 15,598 during the corresponding period in 2020, an increase of 31%. The figures come ahead of the national holiday, Aliyah Day, on October 13, which celebrates immigrants to Israel from around the world. At the same time, aliyah will still likely be much lower than the level reached in 2019, the last full year before the COVID-19 pandemic, when some 34,000 new immigrants arrived. The final tally of immigrants for 2020 was 20,000, a 33% increase over the figures as of October that year. If aliyah continues at the same rate for the last three months of 2021 as 2020, the final number of immigrants for this year will likely be between 26,000 and 27,000. That would be approximately a 22% decrease over the 2019 figures. Aliyah that year was, however, especially high, the highest in a decade. According to the data, the largest source of aliyah this year has been Russia, with 5,075 immigrants arriving (which marks a 5% decrease from last year), and the US, with 3,104 (who made aliyah with the help of Nefesh B’Nefesh), up 41% from the first nine months of 2020. Meanwhile, 2,819 immigrants have come from France (a 55% increase), 2,123 from Ukraine (4% increase), 780 from Belarus (69% increase), 633 from Argentina (46% increase), 490 from the United Kingdom (20% increase), 438 from Brazil (4% increase), and 373 from South Africa (56% increase). Finally, 1,589 have come from Ethiopia, compared with 285 immigrants the previous year thanks to Operation Zur Israel, led by the Jewish Agency and the Aliyah and Integration Ministry, which helped immigrants reunite with their families after decades of being apart. Jerusalem is now home to 2,184 of this year’s new immigrants, with 2,122 moving to Tel Aviv, 2,031 to Netanya, 1,410 to Haifa, and 744 to Ashdod. Meanwhile, Ra’anana, Beit Shemesh, Nahariya, Beersheba and Bat Yam have all absorbed more than 600 immigrants this year

***Three Israeli Hospitals Make Newsweek’s List of Top Cardiology Centers;*** Three Israeli hospitals were featured in a new list of the world’s top cardiology centers published by Newsweek. Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer ranked No. 44 out of the top 50, and Hadassah University Medical Center and Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center were in the 51-200 list, which was sorted alphabetically. “In our nine decades, Newsweek has covered all aspects of health care — scientific challenges, economic disruption, the occasional medical miracle and most of all, what these developments mean for our readers,” the magazine’s global editor-in-chief, Nancy Cooper, wrote in an introduction. “As part of that commitment, we’ve partnered with Statista Inc., the global market research and consumer data firm, to rank the world’s best hospitals.” This latest ranking includes the best hospitals for cardiology, oncology, endocrinology, neurology, gastroenterology and orthopedics. Hadassah's Sharett Institute of Oncology made the list of top oncology centers. No other Israeli hospitals made it on the other lists. "The choice of the Cardiology Department at Hadassah is gratifying and reflects extensive activity in all areas of cardiology, from innovative treatments through groundbreaking research to the training of the next generation of cardiologists from Israel and around the world," said Ofer Amir, Head of Hadassah’s Heart Institute.

***Israeli-American Economist Joshua Angrist Wins 2021 Nobel Prize in Economics;*** Israeli-American economist Joshua Angrist was awarded the 2021 Nobel economics prize alongside David Card and Guido Imbens on Monday, October 11, for pioneering the use of “natural experiments” to understand the causal effects of economic policy and other events. Natural experiments use real-life situations to work out impacts on the world, an approach that has spread to other fields and revolutionized empirical research. The prize, formally known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, is the last of this year’s crop of Nobels and sees the winners share a sum of 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.14 million). Canadian-born Card, 65 and a professor of economics at the University of Berkeley, California, took half the prize “for his empirical contributions to labor economics,” the academy said. Angrist and Imbens, the latter of whom is 58 and a professor of economics at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, shared the other half “for their methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationships.” “I was just absolutely stunned to get a telephone call, then I was just absolutely thrilled to hear the news,” Imbens said on a call with reporters in Stockholm. The Nobel Institute said in a statement that the three laureates had provided us with new insights about the labor market and shown what conclusions about cause and effect can be drawn from natural experiments.

***Massive Ancient Wine Factory Unearthed in Israel;*** Yavne was a world wine powerhouse about 1,500 years ago: a huge and well-designed industrial estate from the Byzantine period, with a very impressive wine production complex - the largest known in the world from this period, has been excavated in the city over the past two years. This huge excavation has been conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority as part of the Israel Land Authority's initiative to expand the city. The plant includes five magnificent wine presses, warehouses for aging and marketing the wine, kilns for firing the clay amphorae in which the wine was stored, tens of thousands of fragments and intact earthen amphorae (jars), well planned access between the facilities, and more. Drinking wine was very common in ancient times, for children and adults alike. Since the water was not always sterile and or even tasty, wine was also used as a kind of "concentrate" to improve the taste, or as a substitute for drinking water. Each of the exposed winepresses covered an area of about 225 square metres. Around the treading floor, where the grapes were crushed barefoot to extract the liquid, compartments were built for fermenting the wine, and next to them - two huge octagonal shaped vats for collecting the wine. Between the winepresses, four large warehouses were discovered, which formed the winery of the factory. The wine is aged in elongated amphorae, known as 'Gaza jars'. The jars themselves, some of which were discovered complete, together with hundreds of thousands of their fragments, were made at the site in large kilns.

***Iran Rejects Demand for UN Inspectors' Access to Nuclear Site;*** Iran on Tuesday, September 28, rejected a US call to grant UN inspectors access to a nuclear site, saying Washington was not qualified to demand inspections without condemning a sabotage attack on the facility, Iranian state media reported. "Countries that did not condemn terrorist acts against Iran's nuclear site are not qualified to comment on inspections there," Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said during a visit to Moscow, according to Iranian state news agency IRNA. The United States said on Monday, September 27, that Iran must stop denying the UN nuclear watchdog access to a workshop making centrifuge parts as agreed two weeks ago or face diplomatic retaliation at the agency's Board of Governors meeting. The workshop at the TESA Karaj complex makes components for centrifuges, machines that enrich uranium, and was hit by apparent sabotage in June in which one of four International Atomic Energy Agency cameras there was destroyed. Iran removed them and the destroyed camera's footage is missing.

***Israel is Taking Initiative Against Iran Now;*** Israel is not just talking, it is taking action against Iran in the present, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said in a briefing to journalists on his delegation to New York, following his address to the United Nations General Assembly on Monday, September 27. Iran’s pace of advancement towards a nuclear weapon is “unacceptable,” and Israel’s approach is “not just apocalyptic

warnings, but initiative. We mean what we say,” Bennett said. “We are acting in the present and will continue. I believe that consistent and determined action can make a difference,” he stated. “Iran’s nuclear weapon program is at a critical point. All red lines have been crossed. Inspections – ignored. All wishful thinking – proven false. Iran is violating the [International Atomic Energy Agency’s] safeguard agreements – and it’s getting away with it.” Bennett pointed out that he had said in his UN speech that Iran is more vulnerable than it seems because they are “a rotten regime, alienated [from its people and] cannot function: not in coronavirus, not in providing water and electricity to large parts of the country. They’re corrupt.” Those vulnerabilities give Israel leverage to try to stop the regime’s malign actions, he added. Bennett said in his speech that Iran’s military drone unit threatens the entire world, mentioning the attack on the Mercer Street vessel – in which Iranian suicide drones killed a British and a Romanian citizen – as well as its proxy armies throughout the Middle East, which it plans to arm with thousands of deadly unmanned aerial vehicles. He later said that he referred specifically to Iran’s UAVs, because “it costs little, causes great damage and allows them to deny involvement. They give it to their proxies, which creates an asymmetric situation. It doesn’t cost a lot to use UAVs, but it costs a lot to defend against them.” In the UN, Bennett said that “Iran’s great goal is crystal clear to anybody who cares to open their eyes: Iran seeks to dominate the region and seeks to do so under a nuclear umbrella.” He pointed to places in which “Iran has spread its carnage and destruction” – Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Gaza – and said they are all in crisis. “Like the Midas touch, Iran’s regime has the ‘Mullah-touch.’ Every place Iran touches, fails,” the prime minister quipped. Bennett also referred to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi’s history of heading a “death commission” that ordered the murder of 5,000 political activists - and then celebrating the deaths by pocketing the victims’ money and eating cream puffs. “He celebrated the murder of his own people, by devouring cream cakes,” Bennett emphasized. “And now Raisi is Iran’s new president. This is who we’re dealing with.”

***Large Explosives Cache Found in West Bank Town;*** Israeli security forces early Monday, September 27, carried out further operations in the West Bank to disrupt alleged plans for major terror attacks, using new intel gained following the arrest of some 20 suspected members of a Hamas cell. It was the second straight night Israeli troops operated in the town of Bidu, near Jerusalem. Three Hamas gunmen were killed in a shootout with soldiers the night before. In the latest raids, forces found a significant cache of explosive devices intended to be used in a terror attack in the capital in the coming days, according to television reports Monday. The “kilograms of explosives” were hidden in a well whose exact whereabouts were determined after the Shin Bet internal security service interrogated the cell’s mastermind and other members, the reports said. A spokesperson for the Israel Defense Forces declined The Times of Israel’s request for further information, citing the ongoing investigation. The military said at least seven suspected members of the Hamas cell were arrested during arrest raids overnight Saturday, September 25, and at least five other suspected terrorists were killed after they opened fire at IDF troops. Five guns were also confiscated in the raids, along with large amounts of ammunition. Several other members of the group had been arrested on the preceding nights. It is estimated that the West Bank operations to dismantle the terror network will continue in the coming days, as the IDF believes some members are still on the loose. Officials said the cell had planned an immediate major terror attack.

***Iran’s Says Tehran Won’t Accept Longer and Stronger Nuclear Deal;*** Iran’s Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has said that Tehran will not accept a United States-desired “longer and stronger deal” with world powers on its nuclear program. Iran’s top diplomat made the comments on Friday, September 24, to The New York Times, adding that the 2015 deal “has a lot of harsh critics in Iran, but we accepted it.” US President Joe Biden has expressed willingness to return to the previous deal if Iran returns to compliance as well. He has also said that he would seek a stronger deal after the sides recommit to the previous accord. But under the new hardline government in Tehran, Amir-Abdollahian rejected the second notion, while also saying that Iran would demand greater concessions to return to the deal than under its original terms — likely a non-starter for Washington. With the talks yet to resume and Iran raising its price, officials in the Biden

administration have sounded increasingly skeptical that a return to the accord former US President Donald Trump discontinued in 2018 is possible. The newspaper noted that according to expert estimations, with its current pace of uranium enrichment, Iran could produce enough weapons-grade plutonium for a nuclear bomb with two months, if it wanted to — but it would need another 18 months at least to make a weapon, which would give the US, Israel or others time to react if it tried to do so. The nuclear talks, brokered by the Europeans, seek the return of the US to the 2015 agreement discontinued by Trump — as well as Iran's return to full compliance. When asked by reporters to explain why Iran was, for the first time, producing fuel enriched to a level that is close to weapons-grade, Amir-Abdollahian declined to answer.

***Israeli Exports Rise 24% after 'Unprecedented' Recovery;*** Israeli exports of goods and services rose 24% in the first half of 2021 to \$67.6 billion compared to the same period in 2020, the Economy and Industry Ministry said. Exports grew 11% in the first quarter and an “unprecedented” 38% in the second quarter, the ministry said. Exports for the full year are forecast to reach \$135b., a 20% increase from 2020. “We are proud of the achievements of Israeli industry, the Foreign Trade Administration and our system of economic attachés around the world, which managed to create a rapid and unprecedented recovery in exports,” said Ohad Cohen, director of the Foreign Trade Administration. Despite the fact that trade was depressed in the second quarter of 2020, the level of growth is still quite impressive, given that the tourism services export market has not yet returned to normal due to travel restrictions, the ministry said. Export of services grew by 30% in the first half of 2021, while goods exports rose 18%. Exports of services exceeded exports of goods for the first time ever, accounting for 51.4% of Israel's total exports, compared with 48.6% for exports of goods, due largely to increased hi-tech service exports. Exports of software and computing services and scientific R&D services, which constitute the core of Israeli's hi-tech industry, grew by 29% and 48%, respectively. Exports of diamonds rose 111%, reversing a trend in recent years, with 40% of diamonds sold to European markets, 33% to American markets, and about 25% to Asian markets. “We are full of pride in Israeli industry, the business sector, the hi-tech sector and the technological entrepreneurs in Israel who prove time and time again that nothing can stop Israel's determination to break out and win,” said Economy and Industry Minister Orna Barbivay. “We will continue to work to remove barriers to trade, open doors to new markets for Israeli industry and provide professional support and guidance to companies interested in expanding their activities in existing markets or penetrating new markets.” Meanwhile, the Foreign Trade Administration said it reopened its financial assistance programs for overseas marketers, “Smart Money” and “Gateway to International Exports,” which offer millions of shekels to help export companies penetrate global markets. Businesses can apply until October 17, with preference given to companies owned by minority populations, those located in the Gaza envelope area and companies in Eilat.

***Jordan Fully Reopens Border Crossing with Syria, Seeks Trade Boost;*** Jordan fully reopened its main border crossing with Syria on Wednesday, September 29, in a move to boost the countries' struggling economies and reinforce a push by Arab states to reintegrate Syria after shunning it during its civil war. Syrian trucks waited to enter Jordan at the Jaber border crossing and taxis carrying passengers lined up to pass through customs and immigration control. “The security situation is now stable on the Syrian side and we hope it remains stable,” Colonel Moayad Al Zubi, the head of Jaber crossing, told Reuters. The Jaber crossing had reopened in 2018 after the Syrian government drove rebels from the south, but the COVID-19 pandemic led to measures being imposed to curb transmission of the virus. “The aim of these understandings is to boost trade exchange between the two countries to achieve the interests of every party,” Jordanian trade and industry minister Maha Al Ali told state-owned Al Mamlaka television. Andre Bank, senior research fellow and Syria expert in the German Institute for Global and Area Studies think tank, said the full reopening of the border crossing was a gain for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. “It is another important step in the regional normalization of the Assad regime. Within the regional balance of power between the different Arab states, the pendulum seems to be swinging more towards the pro-Assad friendly side,” Bank said. Jordan, Lebanon,

Syria and Egypt this month reached an agreement for Egyptian natural gas to be sent to Lebanon via Syria using a pipeline built some 20 years ago in an Arab cooperation project.

***Israeli Scientists to Participate in International Drive to Find Covid-Curing Pills;*** The Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot will participate in a global drive to develop safe, globally accessible, affordable and easily-manufactured antiviral drugs against COVID-19 and future viral pandemics. The drive will be spearheaded by an initiative called "The COVID Moonshot," a non-profit, open-science consortium of scientists from around the world that began as a spontaneous virtual collaboration in March 2020, in which scientists from the Weizmann Institute are members. Moonshot's over 150 scientists crowdsource ideas for molecular compounds, model them and evaluate them in-vitro against the virus. Their goal is to come up with a non-profit oral treatment for COVID-19 and related viral pandemics, especially for low- and middle-income countries. 'If drug discovery efforts that were launched during the 2003 SARS epidemic had persevered and had been funded to completion, relevant anti-coronavirus drugs would have been more readily available when COVID-19 hit,' said Moonshot participant Nir London, Senior Scientist at Weizmann. 'Now is the time to plan for the future. In addition to addressing this current pandemic, which is not showing signs of slowing, we want to develop one or more novel pan-coronavirus antiviral molecules for future outbreaks. We also want to provide an open platform to accelerate the response time when new pandemics arise,' London said. Moonshot data is already available online to enable others to freely build on its work, and the project has already generated over 50% of known structural information on the main protease, a key protein in SARS-CoV-2. The first clinical trials are expected in 2022. Besides the Weizmann Institute, collaborators of the Moonshot project include academic and industrial groups such as Diamond Light Source, the UK's national synchrotron science facility; the Nuffield Department of Medicine at the University of Oxford (UK); PostEra (US/UK), a machine-learning-driven medicinal chemistry company; the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (US); various drug discovery consultants including MedChemica Ltd (UK), Thames Pharma Partners (US) and Compass Business Partners (UK); and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (Switzerland), which is leading and coordinating the newly funded drive toward the clinical stages. The drive was made available by an £8 million donation to the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator, an initiative launched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, MasterCard and global charitable foundation Wellcome, with support from public and philanthropic donors. Joining in on the success of Israel, Cyprus, Greece, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, Morocco will be installing nesting boxes for owls, which will enable biological extermination in agriculture without the use of poisonous chemicals that are dangerous for people and the environment. The man who started the initiative, Prof. Yossi Leshem, is a member of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, an ornithologist and a professor of Zoology at Tel Aviv University. Leshem said he met Prof. Imad Chirkawi, an ecologist and bird researcher, at a workshop of Mashav (The Center for International Cooperation) a few years ago. At this meeting, Leshem expressed an interest in leading the initiative in Morocco and the other Maghreb countries like Algiers and Tunisia. "We are seeing the owl is replacing the dove as the harbinger of peace and is proving once again that birds do not have geographical borders," the professor said. "I am happy to see that the vision is taking shape. I hope that as a result of the meetings in Dubai, the emirates of the UAE who want to use environmentally friendly agriculture and learn from the methods developed in Israel over the last 35 years will also join the initiative. The Israeli national initiative of using owls and falcons as biological exterminators in agriculture began to take shape in 2008 in cooperation with the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, Tel Aviv University, and the ministries of Agriculture, Regional Cooperation and Environmental Protection, among other bodies. So far, some 5,000 nesting boxes have been placed in the Golan Heights, Galilee, Hula Valley, Jezreel Valley, Beit Shean Valley, the Sharon region, Judea and the South. The project has been a success in minimizing the use of poisonous chemicals in Israeli agriculture and is expected to reduce it further in the future. The main food source for owls is rodents, and owls catch between 2,000 and 6,000 rodents every year, depending on the size of the prey. "The bigger and more sequential the areas are, the bigger the owl population will be and the more consistent and healthy, which will make the project's success greater," Leshem said. "Furthermore, regional cooperation can be used

as a bridging platform between the Jordanians, the Palestinians and the Israelis. Common efforts will help improve the system, thus helping to develop environmentally-friendly agriculture."



*Robert I. Solomon: Messianic Rabbi, [rabbisolomon@yachad.com](mailto:rabbisolomon@yachad.com)*

*Jeffery Blalock: Ministries Coordinator, [jeffery@yachad.com](mailto:jeffery@yachad.com)*

*Yachad Ministries, 950 Pine Grove Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075*

*E-mail: [info@yachad.com](mailto:info@yachad.com), Web Page: <https://www.yachad.com/>*

*Phone: 770-641-3000 (ext. 6)*

***Sharing Yeshua in unity with both Jew and Gentile***

*To unsubscribe [click here](#).*

()