

# ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update March 10, 2022 (7<sup>th</sup> Adar-B, 5782)***



## ***For the Yachad Report Newsletter For March 2022***

***Bennett Concludes Meeting with Putin, Speaks with Zelensky;*** Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow for three hours on Saturday, March 5, in an apparent attempt to negotiate an end to the war in Ukraine. Bennett and Putin discussed the war in Ukraine, including the situation of Israelis and Jewish communities as a result of the conflict, a diplomatic source said. Bennett informed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in advance of the meeting with Putin, and called him before departing Moscow. Bennett also spoke with French President Emmanuel Macron. Bennett flew to Berlin after the meeting with Putin, to have dinner with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. The two leaders spoke for an hour, discussing a number of issues including the Russia-Ukraine War. The prime minister has twice spoken with Putin and Zelensky previously, since Russia invaded Ukraine. Zelensky has asked Bennett to try to mediate between the sides, an offer that Putin rebuffed last year, but did not reject last week when Bennett brought it up again. Bennett coordinated his trip to Moscow in advance with the US, France and Germany – all parties to the Iran talks. Bennett spoke with French President Emmanuel Macron and may visit Paris after Berlin, KAN reported. Turkey was also updated, as Bennett’s flight route was over its territory. In addition, Putin and Bennett discussed the Iran talks, with the latter emphasizing that Israel opposes a return to the 2015 nuclear deal, which is the aim of the negotiations in Vienna. Putin and Bennett agreed to continue the deconfliction mechanism in Syria. Jerusalem coordinates with Moscow before airstrikes on Iranian targets in Syria, where the Russian Army is the dominant force. Since Russia invaded Ukraine, Jerusalem has been trying to balance the national security importance of coordination with Moscow with Israel’s strongest strategic alliance with the US, and support for democracy and international order. Israel condemned Russia’s invasion of Ukraine through Foreign Minister Yair Lapid and a vote in the UN General Assembly, but Bennett has been reticent to say anything about Russia. In his recent statements, he has expressed support for the Ukrainian people and called for negotiations. The prime minister was the first leader of a democracy to meet with Putin since Russia invaded Ukraine 10 days prior.

***Bennett Found Putin to be ‘Rational’ During Meeting;*** Prime Minister Naftali Bennett reportedly came away from his meeting with Vladimir Putin with the impression that the Russian president was in a rational state of mind, bucking assessments that he may have become unhinged. Hours after returning, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Israel had a moral obligation to work to broker peace talks between Russia and Ukraine — even if the likelihood for progress was slim. “I returned from Moscow and Berlin a few hours ago,”

Bennett said at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting on Sunday, March 6. “I went there to assist the dialogue between all of the sides, of course with the blessing and encouragement of all players.” “We will continue to assist as needed,” Bennett said at the cabinet meeting. “Even if the chance is not great — as soon as there is even a small opening, and we have access to all sides and the capability — I see this as our moral obligation to make every effort.” Bennett was being cautious with Putin, due to the Russian leader “not being interested in a ceasefire or humanitarian corridors.” American officials are worried Putin is using Bennett in order to regain international legitimacy. However, sources close to Bennett said that the US encouraged him to meet Putin, seeking to take advantage of Israel’s good relations with both sides to end the fighting. Bennett reportedly spoke with White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan on Friday, March 4, ahead of the meeting, and received the go-ahead. Putin made it clear to Bennett that he is unwilling to end hostilities until Ukraine demilitarizes, saying that Moscow’s position is: “until there is dialogue, hostilities [will continue].” Russia conveyed to Israel via diplomatic channels that it is deliberately not targeting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, even though it knows where he is, reportedly with the aim of capturing him alive.

***Iran Adjusting Stance After Russia’s New Demands at Nuclear Talks;*** A top Iranian official said Monday, March 7, that his country is seeking “creative ways” to restore its nuclear deal with world powers after Russia’s foreign minister linked sanctions on Moscow over its war on Ukraine to the ongoing negotiations. The tweet by Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran’s powerful Supreme National Security Council, offers the first high-level acknowledgment of the demands of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. “Vienna participants act & react based on interests and it’s understandable,” Shamkhani wrote. “Our interactions ... are also solely driven by our people’s interests. Thus, we’re assessing new elements that bear on the negotiations and will accordingly seek creative ways to expedite a solution.” In recent days, negotiators on all sides in Vienna had signaled that a potential deal was close as the head of the United Nations’ nuclear watchdog agreed to a timetable with Iran for it to disclose answers to long-standing questions it had about Tehran’s program. But Lavrov on Saturday, March 5, said he wanted “guarantees at least at the level of the secretary of state” that the US sanctions would not affect Moscow’s relationship with Tehran. That threw into question the months of negotiations held so far on restoring the Trump-killed 2015 deal, which saw Iran agree to drastically limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. “Getting out of the deal was one of the worst mistakes that’s been made in recent years. It let the entire Iranian nuclear program that we put in a box out of the box,” Blinken said of Trump’s decision. “And so if there’s a way of getting back to reimplementing that deal effectively, it’s in our interest to do it and we’re working on that as we speak. It’s also in Russia’s interest.”

***As Iranian Drone Threat Increases, Israeli F-35s Down Two;*** Two Iranian Shahed 197 drones heading toward Israel were downed by Israeli F-35 fighter jets last year far beyond the country’s airspace and less than half an hour after they had been identified. One drone, flying toward Israel from the South, was spotted at around 1:44 AM and was shot down at 2:19 AM. The second one, which was flying in from the East, was identified at 1:46 AM and downed at 2:16 AM. The F-35s were from the 140th Golden Eagle Squadron and 116th Lions of the South Squadron. Though the IDF was unable to say where the drones were launched from, “The UAVs were detected and tracked throughout their flight by ground control units.” “The interceptions of the UAVs were carried out prior to them entering Israeli airspace, in coordination with neighboring countries,” the military said, without naming the countries due to security concerns. The drones that were ferrying weapons to Palestinian terror groups in the Gaza Strip were downed in March 2021 by missiles fired by the stealth jets, making it the first time that the aircraft downed unmanned aerial systems (UAS) anywhere in the world. Israeli officials estimate that Iran was attempting to test whether military equipment could be smuggled to Gaza via drone and if successful more significant weapons could be smuggled in a similar way in the future. The timing of the announcement late on Sunday night, March 6, was unclear but comes as Israel warns that Iran has been increasingly aggressive in the region while it is continuing to negotiate with Western countries about its nuclear program in Vienna.

***Inside the Jewish Response to the Mounting Ukrainian Refugee Crisis in Poland;*** A growing number of Jewish individuals and organizations have been propelled into action by Russian President Vladimir Putin's brutal attack on Ukraine. With the exception of the Jewish Agency's emergency fast-tracking of applications for immigration to Israel, which is available only to Jews, most of the help is given regardless of religion. According to the United Nations, 1 to 3 million Ukrainians are likely to leave their country in the coming weeks. Many are coming through Poland. And Poles, including Jews, are rising to the occasion. Student Kamilla Czesnyk was at a meeting of Limmud Europe, a Jewish learning initiative, in Gdansk when the war broke out. She quickly switched gears to help organize donated medications — like heparin and morphine — for soldiers in Ukraine. “We really need a good doctor who understands the situation,” said Czesnyk. Also at Limmud, Natalia Czakowska took a midnight phone call and ended up sheltering a Ukrainian woman in her Warsaw apartment for the night. Czakowska has also heard that “people are crossing the Ukrainian border to rescue pets that were abandoned ... Maybe the people did not know they could bring their pets.” Aldona Zawada, an employee of the American Jewish Committee of Central Europe, invited her parents to move in with her so their apartment could be used by refugees. They took in a family that had traveled for three days and then waited in a line at the border for 23 hours. The Jewish Agency has doubled down its efforts to bring out Jews who had already started the process of emigration to Israel before the war. Warsaw is one of the hubs where Jews are waiting to fly out; the first Ukrainian immigrants are expected to arrive in Israel on Sunday, March 6. About 300 Ukrainians are expected on three flights from Warsaw, Moldova and Romania, according to the Jewish Agency. A third of them are orphans who were evacuated to Romania under the supervision of Chabad, which ran their Ukrainian orphanage. That's a tiny fraction of the Jews who have fled Ukraine over the last week, as part of an abrupt migration of 1 million Ukrainians. To meet their needs, a handful of independent Jewish groups joined forces to create a crisis management center at Warsaw's Jewish Community Center. The crisis center, upstairs in the Warsaw Jewish Community Center, has about 30 volunteers so far, Dorosz said. They are taking calls, organizing sleeping bags and food, medical help and counseling, driving to the border and offering transportation westward, and bringing food to refugees in hotels.

***Israel to Cap Number of Non-Eligible Ukrainian Refugees it Accepts;*** Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked said Monday, March 7, that Israel will place a cap on the number of Ukrainian refugees allowed in who are not eligible to immigrate to the Jewish state — but did not indicate what that figure would be. “We will approve some sort of humanitarian cap on people who are not eligible under the Law of Return,” Shaked said to Kan public radio on Monday morning. “In the coming days, I will formulate an organized policy, because we have to get this situation in order.” Shaked declined to specify the number of Ukrainian refugees who are not eligible to become citizens that Israel will be willing to accept. She is thought to favor placing the cap on entry as low as possible, while Foreign Minister Yair Lapid reportedly wants Israel to accept a greater number. The Population and Immigration Authority said Monday morning that since the February 24 outbreak of war, 2,792 Ukrainian nationals have arrived in Israel; 129 of them were denied entry for unspecified reasons. Throughout the month of February, 3,226 Ukrainians landed in Israel; 248 of them were denied entry and 2,134 exited, the authority said. Under the Law of Return, anyone with at least one Jewish grandparent is eligible to become an Israeli citizen. Shaked claimed that only around 10% of those who have entered Israel since the war began are eligible for citizenship. The minister said that Israel's primary goal is to absorb fleeing Jews and others who can become citizens, as opposed to all refugees. “Israel has a huge challenge to absorb those who are eligible under the Law of Return,” she said. “We expect tens of thousands, we could reach hundreds of thousands if a large number come from Russia and other former Soviet nations. That's our central mission.”

***2,000 Israelis Stranded in Ukraine;*** During a situational assessment held last week, Minister of Foreign Affairs Yair Lapid instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mashav, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation and a division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to continue with four main relief

efforts: - A field hospital to be established in the coming days in Ukraine in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Chaim Sheba Medical Center, and Clalit Health Services. The ongoing transfer of humanitarian aid according to the needs of Ukrainian authorities and the surrounding countries. - The transfer of 6 giant generators to Lviv Hospital that will allow for its continuous operation even without its regular power supply. - Assistance centers for refugees (Jews and non-Jews alike) at border crossings where Ministry of Foreign Affairs personnel are stationed, with an emphasis on providing winter gear. During the situational assessment, the Foreign Ministry's Deputy Director-General for Consular Affairs, Eyal Siso, presented data on the departure of Israeli citizens from Ukraine. According to the Consular Division, in the three weeks since the travel warning was issued, about 10,200 Israeli citizens have left the country, of whom about 5,700 have left since the outbreak of hostilities. According to Foreign Ministry estimates, there are approximately 2,000 Israeli citizens remaining in Ukraine.

***Australia Officially Lists All of Hamas as a Terrorist Group;*** Australia on Friday, March 4, listed the entire Palestinian Islamist group Hamas as a terrorist organization, calling the move a deterrent to political and religious violence and bringing Australia in line with the United States, the European Union and Britain. Australia had for two decades proscribed Hamas's paramilitary wing, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, as a terrorist organization but flagged last month that it wanted to upgrade the listing to the whole organization, a process that involved consulting Australia's state and territory leaders. The change puts Australia into lockstep with its allies, which have also been moving to tighten their opposition to the Gaza ruling body, citing its access to sophisticated weaponry and terrorist training facilities. "The hateful ideologies of terrorist groups and those who support them have no place in Australia," Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews said in a statement. "Our strong laws target not only terrorist acts and terrorists, but also the organizations that plan, finance and carry out these abhorrent acts," she added. Listing organizations was a deterrent to violent extremism and sent a message that Australia condemned the use of violence to achieve political, religious or ideological aims, she added. Proscribing an organization in Australia makes it illegal to give it funds, support or services.

***Russia Strikes Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Site in Ukraine;*** Russian missiles and shells struck the site of Babyn Yar, where tens of thousands of Jews were massacred during the Holocaust, during Moscow's assault on Kyiv on Tuesday, March 1. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy took to Twitter to condemn the attack. "To the world: what is the point of saying 'never again' for 80 years, if the world stays silent when a bomb drops on the same site of Babyn Yar?" Zelenskyy wrote. "At least 5 killed. History repeating..." Andriy Yermak, Zelenskyy's chief of staff, tweeted: "These villains are killing Holocaust victims for the second time." Ukraine State Emergency Services released photos and video of the fire and a collapsed structure at the Babyn Yar memorial and the adjacent Jewish cemetery. Natan Sharansky, former head of the Jewish Agency and current chairman of the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Advisory Board, slammed the attack and Russian President Vladimir Putin. "Putin seeking to distort and manipulate the Holocaust to justify an illegal invasion of a sovereign democratic country is utterly abhorrent," Sharansky stated. "It is symbolic that he starts attacking Kyiv by bombing the site of the Babyn Yar, the biggest of Nazi massacres." Sharansky said that the memorial is meant "to preserve historical memory following decades of Soviet suppression of historical truth so that the evils of the past can never be repeated. We must not allow the truth to – once again – become the victim of war." The memorial site's leadership condemned Putin's use of language related to the Holocaust to justify his invasion of Ukraine: "As experts who work with Holocaust research and commemoration, we are deeply outraged that the aggressor country has used genocidal rhetoric to justify its shameful actions," they said. "Russia has vulgarly instrumentalized anti-Nazi rhetoric, and is trying to take on the role of a fighter against Nazism."

***Ukraine's Leader Signs Application to Join EU as Round of Talks with Russia Ends;*** An embattled Ukraine moved to solidify its bond with the West on Monday, February 28, by signing an application to join

the European Union, while the first round of Ukraine-Russia talks aimed at ending the fighting concluded with no immediate agreements. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy posted photos of himself signing the EU application, a largely symbolic move that could take years to become reality and is unlikely to sit well with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has long accused the West of trying to pull Ukraine into its orbit. Russian and Ukrainian officials held their meeting on day five of the war under the shadow of Putin's nuclear threats, and with Moscow's invasion of Ukraine running into unexpectedly fierce resistance. Early Monday night, a top adviser to Ukraine's president said that the first round of talks with Russia had ended and that both delegations had returned home for consultations in their capitals. Mykhailo Podolyak gave few details except to say that the talks, held near the Ukraine-Belarus border, were focused on a possible cease-fire and that a second round could take place "in the near future." At this stage, Ukraine is many years away from reaching the standards for achieving EU membership, and the 27-nation bloc is expansion-weary and unlikely to take on new members any time soon. Also, any addition to the EU must be approved unanimously, and some member states have complicated approval procedures. Overall, the consensus has been that Ukraine's deep-seated corruption could make it hard for the country to win EU acceptance. Still, in an interview with Euronews on Sunday, EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said, "we want them in the European Union." EU officials stressed that the adherence procedure takes years, dampening Ukraine's hopes that suddenly becoming part of the European club could help it better weather the Russian onslaught and speed up military, financial and political support.

***Israeli-Made Weapons are Heading to Ukraine;*** As NATO member states announce that they are shipping modern weapons to Ukraine, Israeli-made weapons are also on their way, even as Jerusalem walks a diplomatic tightrope following Russia's invasion of the European nation. On Sunday evening, February 27, the Netherlands announced that it would send 50 Panzerfaust 3 anti-tank weapon systems with 400 rockets and 200 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. Amsterdam will also supply 100 sniper rifles and 3,000 additional munitions. While Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel's Defense Ministry had no comment, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Saturday that he had authorized the Netherlands to send Ukraine the military equipment. Germany did not need to ask for Israel's approval to transfer the weapons because the plant in Burbach was only acquired by Rafael in 2004, and Berlin had been financing the development of the weapon since it was first introduced in 1973. The Army Recognition website said that all the military equipment and weapons will be transported to an Eastern European country by American C-17 transport aircraft, which departed from Eindhoven airbase and once on the ground, will be transported by road to Ukraine. Israel has sold billions of dollars worth of weapons systems to Eastern European countries fearing Russian aggression since it annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014. In 2021, Israel's defense exports reached \$8.3 billion, with 30%t going to Europe. The sales included missiles, rockets, air defense systems, communications, drones, intelligence systems, radar and early warning systems, ammunition and armament, manned aircraft, avionics, observation and electro-optics. Rafael has also sold the SPIKE 5th generation, precise electro-optical missile to 18 European Union and NATO members, who can transfer the weapon to Ukraine if given the green light from Jerusalem.

***Roman Abramovich in Belarus Assisting Talks at Kyiv's Request;*** Russian-Israeli billionaire Roman Abramovich, at the request of Ukraine, is in Belarus assisting in the negotiations between Russia and Ukraine as part of an effort to end the ongoing war, The Jerusalem Post has learned. Abramovich was asked by the Ukrainians to help in enabling the talks and has traveled to Belarus to participate in the discussions. Delegations from Russia and Ukraine arrived at the Belarusian border town of Gomel on Sunday, February 27, and began talks aimed at finding a way to end the fighting in Ukraine. Abramovich has close ties with the Jewish communities in Ukraine and Russia. Ukraine's Ambassador to Israel Yevgen Kornichuk would not comment specifically on Abramovich's involvement in the talks, but said that "we appreciate anyone who can help if he has enough influence." Abramovich, the owner of the Chelsea Football Club, has come under fire in London over reports of his past relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Calls have mounted in

parliament for him to be sanctioned. On Sunday, he decided to give the "stewardship" of Chelsea over to trustees of the club's charitable foundation. A spokesperson for Abramovich would not comment on the reports that he was in Belarus but confirmed that he was approached by the Ukrainian officials. "I can confirm that Roman Abramovich was contacted by the Ukrainian side for support in achieving a peaceful resolution and that he has been trying to help ever since. Considering what is at stake, we would ask for understanding as to why we have not commented on neither the situation as such nor his involvement," the spokesperson said.

***Israel Seizes Cryptocurrency Destined for Hamas Terrorism Funding;*** A seizure order for Hamas-destined cryptocurrency worth tens of thousands of shekels was signed by Defense Minister Benny Gantz on Monday morning, February 28. This marks the third time within a year that Israel has seized cryptocurrency accounts funding terrorism. The 12 digital accounts and 30 digital wallets belonged to businesses associated with the Al'matchadun currency exchange company, the Defense Ministry said. The company, owned by the Shamlach family, is alleged to be affiliated with terrorism networks. The Shamlach family has been accused by the Defense Ministry of assisting Hamas with the transfer of tens of millions of dollars per year. "We are taking all the possible measures to cut off the economic 'oxygen supply' to terror organizations," said Gantz. "We continue to expand the tools to cope with terror and the companies that support it. I commend the organizations involved for their intelligence, operational, and legal cooperation. We will continue to take all the measures necessary to fight terror." The operation was jointly conducted by the National Bureau for Counter Terror Financing in Israel (NBCTF), the national cyber unit of Lahav 433, and the IDF's Intelligence Division.

***Russian-Jewish Billionaires Vow to Fight EU Sanctions Over Ukraine Invasion;*** Russian billionaire Mikhail Fridman, whose LetterOne investment firm owns Spain's Dia supermarket chain, said Tuesday, March 1, he would contest the "unfounded" EU sanctions targeting him over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In a joint statement, Fridman and Russian banker Petr Aven, a LetterOne co-founder, insisted they had "no financial or political relationship" with Russian President Vladimir Putin or the Kremlin. The two said they "will contest the spurious and unfounded basis for the imposition of these sanctions — vigorously and through all means available to them — to reverse unwarranted and unnecessary damage to the livelihoods and prosperity" of their employees and business partners. They did not say how they would go about contesting the EU sanctions. Fridman, one of Russia's richest men, resigned from the board of directors of Amsterdam-listed mobile network operator Veon, the company said Tuesday, following his inclusion in the EU's sanctions blacklist of Putin's allies. Veon operates mobile networks in Ukraine and Russia, as well as Bangladesh, Kazakhstan and Pakistan. Fridman holds a 47.9% stake in the company through LetterOne. In a statement late on Monday, Dia insisted it was not controlled by the Russian oligarch and would not be affected by his being blacklisted by the EU. Dia said although it was 78% owned by LetterOne Investment Holdings SA (LIHS), "no individual shareholder controls the LIHS," not Fridman nor Aven. "Accordingly, the firm considers it is not affected in any way, either directly or indirectly (by the aforementioned individuals who do not control LIHS or, therefore, Dia), by the new package of sanctions." In a letter to his LetterOne employees, Fridman told staff that "war can never be the answer" and called for the "bloodshed" to end, the company told AFP on Sunday. "This crisis will cost lives and damage two nations who have been brothers for hundreds of years," he wrote.

***France's Macron Comes Out Against Claims of Israeli Apartheid;*** French President Emmanuel Macron came out last week against the description of Israel as an apartheid state recently by human rights groups like Amnesty International. Macron was supposed to deliver a speech at the annual dinner of the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France (CRIF) but had to cancel an important meeting. Instead, Prime Minister Jean Castex was asked to deliver his speech and he read the president's speech. "Like you, I am concerned about the United Nations resolution on Jerusalem which continues to deliberately and against all evidence remove Jewish terminology from the Temple Mount. You know my attachment to

Jerusalem, where I went several times as President or before becoming one. Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the Jewish people, I have never stopped saying that. This in no way precludes recognizing and respecting the attachment of other religions to this city, and it is in this spirit that I myself walked through the Old City in 2020 and visited each of the Holy Places." "Erasing Jerusalem's Jewishness is unacceptable, just as it is unacceptable that in the name of a just fight for freedom, associations misuse historically shameful terms to describe the State of Israel," Castex said in Macron's name. He added that "where all citizens, whatever their religion, have understood that their only hope is peace together. It is not by affirming such untruths that associations that claim to pursue an objective of peace can claim to fulfill their vocation. How dare we talk about apartheid in a state where Arab citizens are represented in government, in parliament, in leadership positions and in positions of responsibility?" Castex added in the name of the president: "As I promised you, the definition of antisemitism of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance has been adopted by the Republic."

***For Many Jews Watching Ukraine's War, Volodymyr Zelenskyy is a 'Modern Maccabee'***; One week ago, Jews outside of Ukraine knew Volodymyr Zelenskyy as the world leader on the other end of the "perfect phone call" that resulted in the impeachment of President Donald Trump. But now, after days of watching Zelenskyy balance humor and gravitas while rallying his fellow Ukrainians to rebuff the Russian army invasion, they know him as a contemporary Jewish hero. "Zelenskyy gives modern Maccabee energy," Peter Fox, a writer, wrote on Twitter. Fox was referring to the ancient Jews who, though outflanked in every way, fended off the efforts of foreign fighters, directed by a power-hungry ruler, to quash their independence and culture. That history can be seen as an apt comparison for what's happening in Ukraine — and it's one of several reasons that Zelenskyy's leadership is resonating so much with Jews the world over. "As a Jew, it is impossible not to feel proud of the courage, dignity, and defiance shown by Zelenskyy at this moment," Molly Crabapple, a prominent leftist writer and artist, said in a tweet late Friday night, shortly after Zelenskyy posted a video showing him in the center of Kyiv, defiant in the face of encroaching Russian forces. In Tel Aviv, people rallying for Ukraine chanted Zelenskyy's name. A tweet by a former Israeli speechwriter encouraging people to pray for him by his Hebrew name was shared tens of thousands of times over the weekend. And multiple memes ricocheted around the internet highlighting Zelenskyy as a powerful embodiment of Jewish pride. "This is Volodymyr Zelenskyy. President of Ukraine. He is Jewish. His grandfather fought Nazis in WWII. Many of his relatives were killed in the Holocaust," said one of them, shared by Good, a media company. "He is standing up to a dictator. Because he is brave. Because he knows what happens if you don't."



*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)*

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