

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update March 31, 2022 ***(28th Adar-B, 5782)***



[For the Yachad Report Newsletter For March 2022](#)

Terror in Hadera: Two Border Police Officers Killed in ISIS Attack; Two Arab-Israeli terrorists who swore allegiance to ISIS shot and killed two Border Police officers and injured twelve others in Hadera on Sunday evening, March 27. The two Border Police officers killed in the attack in Hadera were Yazan Fallah, 19, from Kasra Samia, and Shirel Aboukaret, 19, from Netanya. Sheren Fallah Saab, a journalist at Haaretz, tweeted on Monday that Fallah is her relative, saying "this is one of the hardest nights for the Fallah family - my family." "I have no words to describe to you how awful and painful the shock, crying and helplessness that struck the family is," wrote Saab. Yazan leaves behind his parents and two sisters. The two terrorists, both residents of Umm el-Fahm, posted a video on Facebook before the attack swearing allegiance to ISIS. The terrorist movement's news agency published a statement on Sunday taking responsibility for the attack in Hadera, as well as for the deadly terrorist attack conducted by an ISIS-supporting Bedouin-Israeli in Beersheba last week.

Russian Ambassador to Syria: Israel Is Provoking Us to React; Russian Ambassador to Syria Alexander Efimov warned Thursday, March 24, that Israeli strikes in Syria are "provoking" Russia to react, in one of the strongest Russian condemnations of Israeli operations in Syria. Efimov additionally complained that Israeli strikes aim to "escalate tensions and allow the West to carry out military activities in Syria." The statement comes amid the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, which Israeli officials have condemned. Israel has also provided hundreds of tons of humanitarian aid to Ukraine and opened a field hospital in the country. Foreign Minister Yair Lapid stressed during a conference at Reichmann University on Thursday that Israel has had to balance its security interests in Syria, which are coordinated with Russia, with its moral obligation to Ukraine amid the Russian invasion. "We condemned the invasion, sent a field hospital to Ukraine, but we must prevent the possibility that one Israeli pilot will be shot down in Syria and taken prisoner," said Lapid. "Think what this will do to Israeli society. What will this do to our national security?"

Top Zelensky Adviser Opens up about His Jewish Roots, Urges Greater Israeli Support; A senior adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky spoke at length about his own Jewish heritage during a conversation Thursday, March 24, with Israeli journalists. Andriy Yermak, Zelensky's chief of staff, conducted the hour-long briefing in Ukrainian, using an interpreter. Until, that is, he was asked about his

Jewish heritage. Yermak switched to English only for this response, speaking directly to the Israelis. “My father is Jewish, he was born in Kyiv,” said the 50-year-old, dressed in the military fleece that Ukraine’s leadership has donned throughout the war with Russia. “Some of my relatives were killed in Babyn Yar,” he stressed, referring to the ravine in Kyiv in which over 33,000 Jews were slaughtered by Nazi Germany and its local allies in September 1941. “The Jewish people know all too well the threat of being eradicated,” he wrote. “Today, Ukraine is Israel.” During the conversation, Yermak also spoke about Borys Romanchenko, the 96-year-old Holocaust survivor killed by a Russian airstrike in Kharkiv. “He managed to survive in this hell of Nazi concentration camps, and then died at 96 from a Russian bomb. This is a surreal reality. This has no justification.” Yermak added that his family maintains contact with Jewish relatives in Israel, the US, and Belgium. Zelensky, Yermak’s boss, is also Jewish and lost his great-grandparents in the Holocaust. Throughout the briefing, Yermak sought to draw parallels between Ukraine and Israel, arguing that the kinship should make Jerusalem more firmly pro-Ukrainian. Zelensky’s senior aide described the period before the Russian invasion as one of marked tolerance between ethnicities and religions. Though the circumstances are now far grimmer, that unity has persisted, Yermak maintained. “It doesn’t matter — Ukrainian Jews, Ukrainian Russians, original Ukrainians, other nations — everybody is together. Everybody is united around the president. Everyone is fighting every day.” “[Ukraine] is a great nation in the center of Europe, and this is a great nation which wanted to be free, to be independent,” he continued. “And I’m sure that our history will be so great, as great as the history of Israel, and the relations between our countries, the relations between our people, will be stronger, and we can always say that we are real friends.”

Secret Israeli Emergency Operation Helps Ukrainian Refugees; While providing humanitarian aid to Ukrainian refugees on the Moldovan border, as well as around the Moldovan capital of Chisinau at several refugee centers, United Hatzalah’s team and its volunteers have also undertaken a series of small-scale covert missions inside Ukraine itself. United Hatzalah purchased four local ambulances last week in an effort to facilitate these rescue missions. The group sent special teams inside Ukraine from Moldova and Slovakia with the purpose of distributing medical supplies to hospitals near the western border and to rescue and recover injured and ill people who wish to flee the war-torn country but are unable to do so due to medical conditions. United Hatzalah volunteer EMT Yehiel Gurfein, who has been in Moldova continuously since Operation Orange Wings began on February 27, together with Vladimir, a local volunteer from the Jewish community of Moldova, departed Moldova to bring the much-needed medical supplies to the Ukrainian citizens. The equipment included trauma bandages, tourniquets, medications, and food. During one of these missions, which took place on Sunday morning, March 27, a group of Jewish Ukrainians who stayed back to protect property in their community, such as businesses and synagogues, contacted the organization and requested medical supplies and trauma care equipment. These people are not trained soldiers nor do they have sufficient medical training. They are fathers who were not allowed to leave the country with their wives and children. Ukraine has made military conscription mandatory following the Russian invasion and has barred all men of fighting age from leaving the country. These men have since organized on their own and risked their lives to protect the lives and property of others in their communities. After several hours of travel with constant barrages of rockets and explosions in the distance, Yechiel and Vladimir met up with personnel on the Ukrainian side and began instructing the men on how to properly use the newly received equipment.

Israel to Host Blinken and FMs of UAE, Morocco, and Bahrain in ‘Historic Summit’; Foreign Minister Yair Lapid will host his counterparts from the US, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco for a “historic diplomatic summit” this week, the Foreign Ministry announced on Friday, March 25. The summit is set to take place on Sunday and Monday, according to the statement, which said more details would follow. The announcement came a day after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced his visit to Israel and the West Bank, a move that had taken some analysts by surprise as the top US diplomat had visited less than a year ago and is not expected to announce a major diplomatic initiative. Blinken will be joined by the UAE’s Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Bahrain’s Abdullatif bin Rashid Al- Zayani, and Morocco’s

Nasser Bourita in the latest gathering that would likely not have taken place if not for the signing of the Abraham Accords. Israel has made strengthening the accords a top priority, scheduling regular diplomatic meetings with member countries. It also is looking to expand the agreements to include other countries as well. Sunday's meeting of foreign ministers took place less than a week after Bennett traveled to the Sinai resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh for the first-ever trilateral summit with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and UAE Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan — another development likely made possible by the Abraham Accords.

Russian, Ukrainian Rabbis Trade Barbs over Invasion; It's not only among Israeli Jews that opinions are divided on how to view Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Top rabbis from both countries this month traded barbs in the media over the ongoing war and the role played by anti-Semitism and the Jews. Back in December of last year, Russia tabled a resolution in the UN General Assembly that, unbeknownst at the time, was a prelude to the current war. Resolution 76/149 is titled "Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance." Ukraine and the United States were the only two countries to vote against it. US officials said that while they certainly oppose the glorification of Nazism, the wording of the Russian resolution impinged on America's First Amendment. The reason for Ukraine voting against the resolution is less clear, but the implication, at least in Russia, has been that the country is among those experiencing a worrying rise in Nazism. And that's what Rabbi Alexander Boroda told Russia's state-run Interfax news agency earlier this month. "In recent years there has been a systematic glorification of Nazi criminals [in Ukraine], torchlight marches and the like," charged Rabbi Boroda, chairman of the Board of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia (FJCR). He explained that while Ukraine is home to "a fairly large and largely prosperous Jewish community, the glorification of criminals responsible for the death of the ancestors of those Jews is going on in parallel." Rabbi Boroda works hand-in-hand with Russian Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar, and both are close confidants of Vladimir Putin. At the start of his invasion of Ukraine, Putin insisted that among his motivations was "de-nazifying" the country. Responding to Rabbi Boroda was one of Ukraine's chief rabbis, Rabbi Moshe Reuven Azman, who told The Jerusalem Post that "Jews on the Russian side who support this war are supporting the massacre of Jews." "The Russian military is committing war crimes in Ukraine," he added. "They are killing women and children. No one asked them to 'de-Nazify' us as a country." Rabbi Azman noted that he knows Rabbi Boroda well, and suggested that perhaps he felt compelled or even was forced to speak out in support of Putin's war: "I understand that the rabbis in Russia may have no choice because the 'iron curtains' are setting in again." It is notable that while Ukraine has a stained past in regards to the Holocaust and ties to Nazi Germany, the country is today led by a Jewish president who enjoys wide popularity.

Israel Ranks Second Most Expensive Country to Buy Property in the World; Israel is the second-most expensive country to buy property in the world, new research has revealed. A study examined average property prices per square meter in addition to the average disposable household income in each country, to calculate the cost per square meter as a percentage of annual income. Israel came in second place as the least affordable country in which to buy property, behind only South Korea, which took the No. 1 spot. Luxembourg came in third. Although Israel has a relatively low property price of \$7,600 per square meter, it has an average disposable income of \$24,863, meaning the affordability ratio came out to 30.6%. "Trying to buy a property right now is harder than it's ever been, largely thanks to the pandemic in particular," said Stephen Zeller, general manager of Home and Contents Insurance at Compare the Market. "While property prices, costs of living, and property shortages are reaching new highs, wages and disposable income have struggled to keep up, which means that for some, the property buying process may at times feel impossible. "However, annual incomes and property prices vary a lot from one country to the next, and so it is not bad news for everyone, especially for the countries that rank in the topmost affordable places to buy property." In

Israel, it is not only housing prices that are skyrocketing but also the general cost of living. Late last year, The Economist named Tel Aviv as the world's most expensive city for everything from shopping to cappuccinos.

Archaeologist Claims to Find Oldest Hebrew Text in Israel; Archaeologist Dr. Scott Stripling and a team of international scholars held a press conference on Thursday, March 24, in Houston, Texas, unveiling what he claims is the earliest proto-alphabetic Hebrew text — including the name of God, “YHWH” — ever discovered in ancient Israel. It was found at Mount Ebal, known from Deuteronomy 11:29 as a place of curses. If the Late Bronze Age (circa 1200 BCE) date is verified, this tiny, 2-centimeter x 2-centimeter folded-lead “curse tablet” may be one of the greatest archaeological discoveries ever. It would be the first attested use of the name of God in the Land of Israel and would set the clock back on proven Israelite literacy by several centuries — showing that the Israelites were literate when they entered the Holy Land and therefore could have written the Bible as some of the events it documents took place. “This is a text you find only every 1,000 years,” Haifa University Prof. Gershon Galil told The Times of Israel on Thursday. Galil helped decipher the hidden internal text of the folded lead tablet based on high-tech scans carried out in Prague at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. Based on epigraphical analysis of the scans and lead analysis of the artifact, Stripling and his team date the curse tablet (or defixio) to the Late Bronze Age, before or around 1200 BCE. If this dating is verified, it would make the text centuries older than the previous record-holder for the oldest Hebrew text in Israel and 500 years older than the previously attested use of the tetragrammaton YHWH, according to Galil. Writing in a similar alphabet was discovered in the Sinai Peninsula dating to the beginning of the 16th century BCE. However, the researchers have not yet published the find in a peer-reviewed academic journal. Likewise, they are not yet releasing clear images and scans of the inscription for other academics to weigh in on. Also challenging the secure dating of the object is the fact that the tablet was not discovered during a carefully excavated stratified context. Rather, it was found during a 2019 re-examination of earth from a dump pile formed during 1980s excavations at Mount Ebal that were held under Prof. Adam Zertal. The earth had been dry-sifted then, and in 2019 Stripling's team resifted it using a wet sifting technique that was developed at the Temple Mount Sifting Project, where Stripling once worked. Stripling currently heads ongoing excavations at biblical Shiloh.

Holocaust Survivor Who Went Through Four Concentration Camps Killed in Ukraine by Russian Strikes; A 96-year-old man who survived the Nazi death camps of Buchenwald, Peenemuende, Dora, and Bergen-Belsen was killed Friday, March 18, when his home in Kharkiv, Ukraine, came under Russian attack. Boris Romanchenko's death was announced Monday by Germany's Buchenwald concentration camp memorial institute. Citing Romanchenko's relatives, the memorial said he was killed when his home in Kharkiv was struck by apparent artillery fire. “Boris Romantschenko campaigned intensively for the memory of the Nazi crimes,” the institute said on Twitter, adding that he had been vice president of the Buchenwald-Dora International Committee, a survivors' organization. The mayor of Lviv, Ukraine, mourned Romanchenko in a Telegram post. “He was killed by a Russian missile in his apartment during a ‘denazification operation,’” Mayor Andriy Sadovy wrote. “The new fascists continue the work of Hitler.” Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly called his unprovoked invasion of Ukraine a “denazification,” falsely claiming that Ukraine is committing “genocide” against its Russian-speaking population. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is Jewish, and speaks fluent Russian, as do many Ukrainians. Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, sits a mere 25 miles from the Russian border. It has been under bombardment for a month, since the start of Russia's invasion.

'Why Won't Israel Give Ukraine Weapons?' Zelensky Criticizes Knesset; Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky used his address to MKs and cabinet ministers by videoconference on Sunday evening, March 20, to talk about Israel not doing enough to help his country since Russia invaded. Pleading for Israel to impose sanctions on Russian businesses, he asked, “Why has Israel refrained from sanctions on Russia? Israel needs to give answers to these questions, and after that, live with them.” Zelensky begged Israel to send

its Iron Dome missile-defense system to protect Ukrainian civilians from Russian airstrikes. He praised the Iron Dome as the best missile-defense system in the world and complained that Israel was not even supplying Ukraine with defensive weapons. “We are turning to you and asking whether it is better to provide help or mediation without choosing a side,” he told the MKs and ministers. “I will let you decide the answer to the question, but I do want to point out that indifference kills.” Criticizing Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, who has mediated between him and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Zelensky said mediation can be between two sides but not between good and evil. Lapid thanked Zelensky for “sharing his feelings and the hardships of the Ukrainian people.” Israel would continue to help Ukraine and “never turn its back on people suffering from the nightmares of war,” he said. Zelensky said the Russians were using terms like “the final solution” against Ukraine. The February 24 date of the Russian invasion was the same date the Nazi Party was founded in 1920, he said, adding that Ukrainians saved Jews in the Holocaust. Appealing to Israelis, Zelensky cited Russian attacks near the Babyn Yar Holocaust memorial and the burial place of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov in Uman. He pointed out that Israel has not sanctioned Russian businesses.

Over 5,000 Immigrants Have Arrived in Israel from Eastern Europe Since War’s Start; More than 5,000 new immigrants from Ukraine “and its environs” have arrived in Israel since the start of the Russian invasion, the Immigration and Absorption Ministry announced. According to the ministry, some 60-65 percent of the 5,070 immigrants — around 3,000 people — that arrived in Israel as of last week were from Ukraine. The rest were said to be from Russia and Belarus. President Isaac Herzog and his wife, Michal, went to the Caesar Hotel in Jerusalem on Thursday, March 17, to greet the new immigrants temporarily residing there. Accompanied by Immigration and Absorption Minister Pnina Tamano-Shata and Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion, the president listened to their experiences fleeing the war-torn country. There has been rising criticism of the refugee policy, from both within and outside the government, particularly regarding caps on the numbers of refugees not eligible for citizenship being allowed into Israel, as well as their treatment. The UN estimates that more than three million Ukrainians have fled across the border since the war began on February 24.

CENTCOM Chief: The Number One Objective is that Iran Does Not Possess a Nuclear Weapon; CENTCOM Commander Gen. Kenneth McKenzie on Friday, March 18, told reporters that “the number one objective of the United States with regard to Iran is that Iran not possess a nuclear weapon”. “I continue to see Iran as the greatest threat to regional security and stability. They furnish weapons, support, and direction to proxies across the region who engage in acts of terror and undermine local governments, all advancing Iranian interests,” said McKenzie. He warned against Iran's ballistic missile threat which he said “has continued to advance and expand with greater ranges and accuracy. CENTCOM has continued to watch Iran and its proxies as we act as a deterrent to Iranian attacks on US interests.” On a potential nuclear deal with Iran, McKenzie said, “So the number one objective of the United States with regard to Iran is that Iran does not possess a nuclear weapon. So I think any solution that closes that path to them contributes to regional security because we'd all like to work with an Iran that is not a nuclear-armed Iran. The best way to get there is probably through a negotiated agreement.” He added that an agreement with Iran does not solve Iranian proxies. It doesn't solve the compelling problem of Iranian ballistic missiles, land-attack cruise missiles, and small unmanned aerial vehicles, and we need to recognize that. That's a separate problem.” The comments came just days after dozens of Iranian ballistic missiles hit the northern Iraqi city of Erbil near the US consulate complex, destroying some residential structures.

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe Returns Home After Years in Iranian Jail; Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe can't wait to take her little girl to school for the first time like any other mother. She has been detained in an Iranian jail for many years but returned to the UK last week. The mother-of-one will remain in a British Government safe house with her husband Richard and daughter Gabriella until they can return to their flat. Nazanin's friends and neighbors in North London said Richard and Gabriella are 'obviously absolutely overjoyed that

mummy is home. There is so much going on and they need time to adjust but Richard said that they just wanted to settle back into normal life - taking walks in the park, going out for a coffee.' Nazanin's first hours of freedom in the UK involved enjoying a cup of tea with her family and then sharing a bed with her husband and daughter after returning to Britain following almost six years of detention in Iran.

British-Iranian Accused of Spying for Israel is Released After 5 Years; Anoosheh Ashoori, a British-Iranian who was held by Iran, accused of spying for Israel, was set free and flew out of the country last week after five years in prison. Ashoori, 67, boarded a flight to Muscat along with Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a UK charity worker who was detained in Iran for nearly six years on charges of subversion. Their release came as the UK government settled a decades-old debt to Iran. A retired civil engineer, Ashoori, was held at the Evin prison. His daughter, Elika Ashoori posted a video message to Twitter in which she said she was “delighted” to announce that her father would be returning home. “1,672 days ago our family’s foundations were rocked when our father and husband was unjustly detained and taken away from us,” she said. “Now, we can look forward to rebuilding those same foundations with our cornerstone back in place.” Ashoori, who had lived for 20 years in the UK, was arrested in 2017 as he visited his elderly mother in Tehran. He had been sentenced to 12 years in prison for alleged ties to Israel’s Mossad intelligence agency, something long denied by his supporters and family. Amnesty International has said that while in detention Ashoori was “subjected to torture, repeatedly interrogated without a lawyer present and forced to sign ‘confessions’ while sleep-deprived.” The British government said a third detainee, Morad Tahbaz, who holds US, British, and Iranian citizenship was released from prison on furlough as part of the same deal.

'Inexplicable Anti-Semitism' Still a Worldwide Problem; At the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron, President Isaac Herzog and his wife Michal joined Macron and his wife Brigitte in marking the 10th anniversary of the murder of four Jews on Sunday, March 20 — three of them children, in a terrorist attack on the Ohr Torah school in Toulouse. Soon after arriving in Toulouse, and following a wreath-laying ceremony, the Herzogs and the Macrons, together with former presidents of France Nicolas Sarkozy and Francois Hollande, visited the Ohr Torah School, and met with the families of the victims, after having previously met with teachers and students who had been at the school at the time of the attack. At the school itself, they spent time with school principal Yaacov Monsonogo and his wife Yaffa who had lost their daughter Myriam in the attack, and they also learned of how the incident had strengthened the Jewish community of Toulouse in their resolve to remain united. At the memorial ceremony for the victims that was also attended by leaders of the Jewish community, Herzog emphasized that there is no justification for the murder of innocent children or any act of terror anywhere. He described terrorism as a means of distilled hatred which is found among the extremist elements of Islam, who use this bitter hatred as a reason for attacking Jews, as well as other Muslims and Christians. Even today, he said, there are incidents of inexplicable antisemitism throughout the world, based on irrational hatred. This is most evident in social media, Herzog noted and urged that it be fought at state, legal, and educational levels. Antisemitism includes acts and deeds against the Jewish state and attempts to annihilate it, he said. In reference to the ongoing Iranian threat, Herzog stressed that Iran is the central source of international terror. The family of nations must stand together against Iran, he insisted.

Singapore to Open Embassy in Israel After 57 Years of Ties; Singapore will upgrade its presence in Israel from consulate to embassy, in the latest move reflecting thawing relations between Israel and Muslim countries. Israel and Singapore forged diplomatic ties in 1965 and have enjoyed friendly relations for decades. Israel sells Singapore defense equipment and has had an embassy in the country since 1968. However, Singapore, mindful of its huge Muslim-majority neighbors, Malaysia and Indonesia, has sought to keep the ties out of the public eye. The Times of Israel reported that Israel’s defense minister, Benny Gantz, visited the country last year but kept it quiet out of deference to Singapore. Now, Singapore is openly boasting about its Israel relations. Vivian Balakrishnan, the Southeast Asian city-state’s foreign minister, made the embassy

announcement Monday, March 21, in Jerusalem where he was meeting with Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid. The embassy will be in Tel Aviv. Since the launch of the Abraham Accords, not only has Israel normalized ties with the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Morocco, and Bahrain, it has improved existing diplomatic relations with Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey.



*Robert I. Solomon: Messianic Rabbi, rabbisolomon@yachad.com
Jeffery Blalock: Ministries Coordinator, jeffery@yachad.com
Yachad Ministries, 950 Pine Grove Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075
E-mail: 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](#).

()