

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update June 9, 2022 (10th Sivan, 5782)



For the Yachad Report Newsletter For June 2022

Iran Threatens 'Immediate Response' to IAEA Visit to Israel; Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir Abdullahian criticized the visit of Israel by the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Grossi. He said the visit "goes against the objective status of the agency". He also threatened that "any action by the United States and the three European countries in the Agency will undoubtedly be met with an appropriate, effective and immediate response from Iran." Earlier, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met with the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Dr. Rafael Grossi, and told him that "Israel reserves the right to self-defense and action against Iran in order to halt its nuclear program." Bennett further noted that "Israel prefers the diplomatic route in order to deprive Iran of any possibility of developing nuclear weapons. The international community must be mobilized to take action against Iran, by all means, in order to prevent it from acquiring nuclear weapons."

Iran Not Providing 'Credible' Answers on Material at Undeclared Sites; International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi on Monday, June 6, said Iran has still not provided satisfactory answers over the presence of uranium at three facilities. "Iran has not provided explanations that are technically credible in relation to the agency's findings at three undeclared locations in Iran," Grossi said Monday, addressing a quarterly meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors in Vienna. "Nor has Iran informed the agency of the current location, or locations, of the nuclear material and/or of the equipment contaminated with nuclear material, that was moved from Turqzabad in 2018," he said. Grossi noted that in order for the IAEA "to be in a position to provide assurance that Iran's nuclear program is exclusively peaceful, the agency remains ready to re-engage without delay with Iran to resolve these matters." Bennett warned Grossi that Iran is pushing ahead on developing a nuclear weapon while misleading the world with "false information and lies" to conceal its work. The IAEA chief tweeted after their meeting that he and Bennett had "important exchanges on topical issues." Major European countries and the United States are

Israeli Navy Wraps up 'Complex' Submarine Exercise in Red Sea; The Israeli Navy wrapped up a "complex" and "lengthy" submarine drill in the Red Sea on Thursday morning, June 2, the military said. Defense commentators characterized the publication of the drill's details as an apparent message to Iran. During the exercise, the INS Tekuma Dolphin-class submarine was escorted by Saar 5 and 4.5 Class

Corvettes in the Red Sea, in a drill simulating “achieving maritime superiority,” the Israel Defense Forces said. The drill aimed to attain that goal while maintaining maritime freedom in the Red Sea, and “increasing the operating area of the Navy.” “Navy troops returned this morning from a complex exercise in the Red Sea. The lengthy exercise simulated various scenarios including achieving superiority and freedom of sailing in the Red Sea,” said Israeli Navy chief Maj. Gen. David Salama. “The Navy will continue to strengthen its operational capabilities and increase its areas of activity,” he added. The drill came during a major month-long exercise dubbed Chariots of Fire, the military’s largest in decades. It has aimed at preparing for hostilities erupting in multiple theaters at the same time, while focusing on fighting the Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon. During drills over the Mediterranean Sea, the Air Force simulated airstrikes on Iranian nuclear facilities. Military officials said the drills were aimed at raising the competence and readiness of troops and top brass for war on multiple fronts, as well as coordination with other emergency organizations, local authorities, and government ministries.

Israel, Saudi Arabia Make Deal for Security Arrangements in Straits of Tiran for Flyover Rights; Israel is set to agree to new security arrangements allowing Egypt to transfer control of two islands in the Straits of Tiran to Saudi Arabia, US President Joe Biden is expected to announce on his trip to the region at the end of the month. There is currently a multinational force on the islands of Tiran and Sanafir, which Saudi Arabia does not want there once they control the islands. Under a soon-to-be-announced deal, Israel will agree to have the forces stationed on what will remain Egyptian soil, several kilometers away. In return, Saudi Arabia will allow Israeli airlines to fly over its airspace. Currently, only Israeli flights to the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain can fly over Saudi Arabia, as well as Air India flights to and from Israel. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said at a Foreign Affairs magazine event this week that “Saudi Arabia is a critical partner to us in dealing with extremism in the region, in dealing with the challenges posed by Iran, and also I hope in continuing the process of building relationships between Israel and its neighbors both near and further away through the continuation, the expansion, of the Abraham Accords.”

In NYC, Hate Crimes up 196% from 2020 to 2021, Antisemitic Incidents up 24%; Hate crimes increased 196% in New York City from 2020 to 2021, the Anti-Defamation League reported Wednesday, June 1. “Jews were the most targeted group in the city, accounting for 40% of hate crimes,” the ADL Center on Extremism and the Community Security Initiative (CSI) said in a report. There was a spike in antisemitic incidents during the May 2021 Israel-Hamas war. “During this time, incidents motivated by anti-Zionist sentiments included assault, arson threats, and harassment,” it said. It also found that New York ranks No. 7 in the country “for white supremacist propaganda efforts, with recent actions carried out by organized hate groups including Patriot Front, New Jersey European Heritage Association and White Lives Matter.” “The ongoing threat of extremist activity in New York State also includes a threat of violent extremism from foreign terrorist organizations, Islamist extremists and racially motivated violent extremists, all of whom promote antisemitic worldviews and regularly incite violence, targeting Jewish synagogues and community buildings,” the report said. The ADL and CSI urged elected officials and law enforcement to take “a series of steps to address rising extremism and the increasing threat of domestic violent extremism.” They called on state officials and the governor to double the New York Hate Crimes Grant Program’s funding from \$25 million to \$50m. “to fund approximately 1,000 projects across the state and to launch a commission on antisemitism that views the issue from the lenses of civil rights, intelligence, and law enforcement, and to create recommendations for comprehensive, whole-of-government responses to the challenge.”

200 Anti-Semitic Letters Sent to Bavarian Politicians, Prosecutors, and NGOs; Over 200 anti-Semitic letters were sent to politicians, public prosecutors and NGOs across Bavaria, Germany by an unidentified individual. The unknown letter writer has been mailing letters containing anti-Semitic content,

including Holocaust denial, since November 2020, the Süddeutsche Zeitung German language site reported. Letters were delivered to politicians, public prosecutors, judges, and radio station employees as well as student organizations. According to the Upper Bavaria North police, the recipients of the letters appeared to have been randomly selected. Police believe the letters were all sent by a single individual. They have been made aware of over 200 cases across Bavaria but the assumption is that there were substantially more letters that were mailed. “We assume that the number of letters is much higher,” an investigator from the Fürstentfeldbruck, Bavaria criminal investigation department said. The investigation is ongoing with police searching for additional letters.

Tourism Ministry Receives over 100 Applications to Establish Hotels; Israel's Ministry of Tourism and the Investment Administration has recently received 107 applications from entrepreneurs seeking grants to build and expand hotels. Investors, who are optimistic about the rehabilitation of Israel's incoming tourism industry, are seeking to establish and convert existing buildings to hotels and expand existing buildings or restore them to their original purpose. Seventy (70) applications were submitted in the building permit track, 22 requests as part of a track to restore buildings to hotel use and convert existing buildings into hotels, and 15 applications were submitted in the implementation track by companies who are in possession of a building permit. This year's grant budget stands at NIS 165 million. The directives of the Investment Administration for 2022 were published last April and the deadline for applications to be submitted was mid-May 2022. Israel Minister of Tourism Yoel Razvozov (Yesh Atid) said: “There is a great deal of optimism and interest among the tourism industry. This year, we broke the record for the number of grant requests for opening new hotels in Israel, with over one hundred applications submitted. The Israel Ministry of Tourism continues to invest vast efforts in increasing incoming tourism traffic to Israel and shortening the amount of time it takes to build hotels. This will inject billions of shekels into the state coffers.”

Israeli Desalination Project Set to Give Arizona Century of Water; Visiting Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey advanced a major desalination project for his state in meetings with top Israeli officials on Tuesday, May 31, which he believes will secure water for Arizona for the next 100 years. In Israel on a five-day trade mission on his third visit as governor, Ducey met with President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu. They discussed how Arizona can learn from Israel and cooperate with the Jewish state in making the Arizona desert bloom. He toured an extensive desalination plant, and wrote on social media that such innovations are part of the solution to secure his state's water future. He said desalination had made Israel the world's water superpower and a role model for Arizona. “My time is limited, but we have been working on this for a long time,” said Ducey, who cannot run again for reelection due to term limits. “Arizona is one of the fastest-growing states. People are flocking to the desert, where we have excellent water management, but we need a new great project to leave the state better than it was when we started.”

Classified IAEA Docs Were Stolen by Iran; Iran used stolen documents to deceive the International Atomic Energy Agency, and continues lying to the world, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett warned on Tuesday, May 31, ahead of the UN atomic agency's board meeting next week. IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi released a report to the agency's Board of Governors a day earlier estimating that Iran already has enough enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon, 18 times more than the 2015 deal with world powers permitted. The IAEA has been investigating the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program and nuclear sites that the Islamic Republic has not disclosed. One of Iran's demands in negotiations to renew the nuclear deal was to close the probe. “Iran has not provided explanations that are technically credible in relation to the Agency's findings at those locations,” Grossi wrote. “The Agency cannot confirm the correctness and completeness of Iran's declarations under its Comprehensive

Safeguards Agreement.” The future of the IAEA investigation is expected to come up at its Board of Governors meeting on June 6.

Iran’s Enriched Uranium Stockpile is 18 Times 2015 Deal Limit; The UN nuclear watchdog said Monday, May 30, that it estimated Iran’s stockpile of enriched uranium had grown to more than 18 times the limit laid down in Tehran’s 2015 deal with world powers. The International Atomic Energy Agency said in its latest report on Iran’s nuclear program that it “estimated that, as of May 15, 2022, Iran’s total enriched stockpile was 3,809.3 kilograms.” The limit in the 2015 deal was set at 300 kilograms (660 pounds) of a specific compound, the equivalent of 202.8 kilograms of uranium. The report also said that Iran is continuing its enrichment of uranium to levels higher than the 3.67 percent limit in the deal. The stockpile of uranium enriched up to 20% is now estimated to be 238.4 kilograms, up 56.3 kilograms since the last report in March, while the amount enriched to 60% stands at 43.1 kilograms, an increase of 9.9 kilograms. Enrichment levels of around 90% are required for use in a nuclear weapon. “The situation does not look very good. Iran, for the time being, has not been forthcoming in the kind of information we need from them... We are extremely concerned about this,” IAEA head Rafael Grossi said. Iran has always insisted that its nuclear program is peaceful. Israel views a nuclear-threshold Iran as an unacceptable threat, as Tehran is avowedly committed to the destruction of the Jewish state. Both American and Israeli officials have assessed that Iran now needs only a few weeks to amass enough fissile material for a bomb, should it choose to make one, though it would need additional time to assemble the device’s other components.

Iranian Outlet Names Five Israeli Intel and Tech Experts as Potential Targets; Five Israelis could be targeted by Tehran, as the Islamic Republic continued to seethe on Monday, May 30, over the killing of a top Revolutionary Guards official, which it blames on Israel. Under the headline “Zionists who must live in secret,” Iran claimed that the five, their families, and colleagues are “under close surveillance day and night” and that many others were potential targets as well. Statements said the five were “involved in sabotage against Islamic countries and the assassination of activists of the Islamic Resistance.” The named individuals are Amos Malka, a former head of the Israel Defense Forces Military Intelligence Directorate; Amir Levental, a cybersecurity expert; Gal Ganot, a former senior officer in the IDF’s 8200 intelligence unit; Inbal Arieli, a tech executive who is also a former 8200 officer; and Amit Meltzer, another cybersecurity expert. The agency published photos of the five under the word “Wanted.” Iranian officials have vowed to avenge the targeted killing of a senior Revolutionary Guard Corps member in Tehran last week, a shooting that Israeli officials claimed was carried out by Israeli intelligence.

China Preps to Invade, Israel Can't Trust Beijing; Voicing concern about a possible Chinese invasion of his country, Taiwan’s Foreign Minister Joseph Wu warned Israel from relying too heavily on China. “China is an authoritarian country and they do business in a very different philosophy,” Wu said in a video interview from his office in Taipei. “Sometimes they use trade as a weapon, and we have seen them practicing their weaponized trade relations with many other countries. “They did it to Lithuania, they did it to the Czech Republic and they also did it to Australia. Sometimes they try to do that to Taiwan as well. So, when we do business with an authoritarian country, we need to be very careful. We shouldn’t allow these kinds of business relations to jeopardize our national security. And I understand pretty well that Israel also places national security very high on the government agenda,” he continued. The statement from Wu came just a week after US President Joe Biden warned that China was “flirting with danger” over Taiwan, and promised to intervene militarily to protect the island if it is attacked. Wu’s concern, he said, is that the Chinese are learning the wrong lesson from the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine. “I’m not sure whether the Chinese leaders are rational in making their own decisions. What we are seeing recently is that they seem to be gearing up a military threat against Taiwan. They seem to be trying to project their forces far beyond Taiwan,” he said. “And, therefore, it seems that China has been drawing the wrong

lesson, and it seems to be trying to examine what went wrong in the Russian warfare against Ukraine to improve themselves. And if they do that, I think their determination to go after Taiwan is going to be stronger.” To counter the Chinese threat, Wu said that Taiwan is working on multiple fronts – preparing militarily and diplomatically and trying to “make friends with as many people as possible.” Israel, he added, was an inspirational country that Taiwan looks up to. He said that both nations can work together and learn from one another. Last July, Wu penned an op-ed in the Post together with Taiwan’s digital minister in which he called for increased cooperation with Israel, particularly in cybersecurity and emerging technologies.

Could Israeli School Security Methods Serve as Model for US Schools?; Shooting attacks on schools in Israel are rare and the Jewish state’s preventive security measures could be a helpful starting point for improved school security in the U.S. This comes at a time of public debate on how best to secure schools in the wake of the Texas school shooting that left 19 students and two teachers dead at the Robb elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. There have been six terrorist attacks on Israeli schools since 1974. That low figure can be explained by the multiple layers of security Israel employs and the engagement of civil society in aiding the nation's law enforcement. David Hazony, a writer and commentator on Israeli and American affairs, said that Israel "puts effort into identifying potential assailants through behavioral profiling." Israel could not prevent attacks if its efforts were based solely on armed security guards at each school, he said. Israel "invests heavily in monitoring profiles of people." It has a "complex, multi-layered approach" to security that uses intelligence networks to examine the acquisition of weapons and social media activity, he said. Brig. Gen. (Res.) Amir Avivi, the founder and CEO of the Israel Defense and Security Forum (IDSF) NGO, noted that Israeli "civilian society understands the shortcomings of government, and civilian society is helping" and stressed that the volunteers are not a "vigilante" force or "militia," but will be under the strict control of the Border Police. "They will be trained and equipped by Border Police officers and will operate in various areas, including in schools," he said. Avivi said the program is an "example of how civil society can help government institutions provide security."

Suriname to Open Embassy in Jerusalem; The South American republic of Suriname will open an embassy in Israel’s capital city, the country’s foreign minister said Monday afternoon, May 30. Foreign Minister Albert Ramchand Ramdin met with his Israeli counterpart, Yair Lapid, Monday in Jerusalem, as part of Ramdin’s visit to Israel. During the meeting, Ramdin informed Lapid that his country intends to open an embassy in Israel. Currently, Suriname’s mission in Israel is represented by a consulate in Tel Aviv. The new embassy will be opened in the near future, Ramdin said and will be located in Jerusalem, rather than Tel Aviv, making Suriname the latest country to recognize Jerusalem as the Israeli capital city. During their meeting, the ministers signed an agreement on political consultations between the Israeli and Surinamese foreign ministries. Minister Lapid offered to send Israeli humanitarian workers to northern Suriname, to help with aid efforts after severe flooding left many residents homeless.

Saudi Arabia to Invest over \$1 trillion in Tourism in Coming Decade; Saudi Arabia is set to spend over \$1 trillion in tourism in the coming decade in a bid to attract 100 million visitors by 2030 and diversify its primarily oil-based economy. The kingdom is pivoting from religious to leisure tourism, which it views as being a key sector in its Vision 2030 program that aims to modernize the country’s economy, according to a special report recently published by Entrepreneur Middle East in partnership with Lucidity Insights. Erika Masako Welch is the chief content officer of special reports for Entrepreneur Middle East and helped put together the report. She told The Media Line that Saudi Arabia is hoping to become a global tourism leader. “Working [women] are entering the workforce at breakneck speed,” Masako Welch said. “Ten or 15 years ago, you had maybe 5% of the Saudi female population in the workforce and now it’s 34%. That’s a lot of jobs that young Saudis are vying for, and those jobs wouldn’t exist unless brand new industries in tech and tourism were being developed.” Earlier this month, Saudi

Arabia announced that it had signed up Argentinian soccer great Lionel Messi to be its new tourism ambassador. After arriving in the kingdom for Jeddah Season, an art and culture festival, Messi uploaded a sponsored Instagram post from a yacht in the Red Sea with the hashtag #VisitSaudi. Leisure tourism accounted for 55% of all global travel in 2019, according to Masako Welch's report, which was sponsored by Saudia Airlines. Saudi Arabia has mainly relied on religious visitors – who undertake the Hajj and Umrah pilgrimages – and is presently building up its leisure portfolio from scratch. "They're not completely new to welcoming outsiders but they're new to welcoming everyone," she said. "Before it was just Muslim pilgrims, which is a big business. That by itself has catapulted Saudia Airlines to make it just as big as British Airways."

Israeli Company's Device Detects COVID-19 in 20 Seconds; Virusight Diagnostic, an Israeli company that combines artificial intelligence software and spectral technology, announced the results of a study that found its Pathogens Diagnostic device detects COVID-19 with 96.3% accuracy in comparison to the common RT-PCR (reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction) test. The study was conducted by researchers from the Department of Science and Technology, University of Sannio, Benevento, Italy, with partner company TechnoGenetics SpA. Virusight is a collaboration between Tel Hashomer's Sheba Medical Center ARC Innovation Center and Newsight Imaging, a company that develops CMOS (complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor) image sensor chips used in cameras and mobile devices. Virusight's SpectraLIT device obtains spectral signatures of the samples from mouth swabs and analyzes machine-learning algorithms that identify SARS-CoV-2. The device then sends the results to a phone or computer in 20 seconds. The Virusight device is registered as an approved in vitro diagnostic (IVD) device. It has the CE mark for the European market and is pending regulatory approval in the United States, The United Kingdom, Latin America, and the Asia Pacific. It will be available in Europe in the coming weeks, according to the company.



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