

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update August 11, 2022 **(14th Av, 5782)**



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Islamic Jihad Fires Rockets 8 Minutes After Ceasefire Takes Effect; Rockets were fired toward southern Israel, just minutes after a ceasefire reached between Israel and Palestinian Islamic Jihad took effect on Sunday evening, August 7, amid efforts to end Operation Breaking Dawn after three days. "If the ceasefire will be violated, the State of Israel reserves the right to respond forcefully," National Public Diplomacy Directorate Head Lior Haiat said. "We will not let any factor violate the routine life of the residents of the State of Israel." Israel thanks Egypt for mediating, Haiat said. Palestinian Islamic Jihad said earlier: "We welcome the Egyptian efforts, and we affirm our right to respond to any Israeli aggression." The Gazan terrorist organization launched a barrage of rockets at southern Israel in the half hour before the ceasefire took effect.

After New Gaza Strike, Israel Says It Has Killed All Islamic Jihad Leaders; The IDF confirmed on Saturday night, August 6, that senior Islamic Jihad operative Khaled Mansour had been killed in an Israeli airstrike and that to the best of the military's knowledge, all senior Islamic Jihad officials in Gaza had been eliminated since Operation Breaking Dawn began on Friday. Palestinian Islamic Jihad also confirmed Mansour's death from an IDF airstrike early Sunday morning. Sirens blared in Tel Aviv on Saturday evening as the IDF continued the operation against Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, as more than 350 rockets were launched toward Israel in the first full day of fighting between the two groups, and more than 1000 by the end of Sunday. Head of the Operations Directorate Maj.-Gen. Oded Basiuk confirmed late Saturday night that senior Islamic Jihad operative Khaled Mansour was the target of the strikes and had been eliminated. He added that "according to our intelligence...all of the senior security operatives of Gaza's Islamic Jihad have been eliminated." According to reports in Gaza, several civilians were killed including a 5-year-old girl and a 25-year-old woman, and at least 125 more were injured.

Iran's Malign Hand Behind the Scenes – Analysis; The pictures coming out of Tehran the last few days went a long way towards explaining events in the South of Israel. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad's leader Ziyad al-Nakhalah's met on Wednesday, August 3, with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein

Amirabollahian. On Thursday, it was Nakhalah meeting with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. And then on Saturday, after the beginning of Operation Breaking Dawn, a picture was released of him in a tête-à-tête with Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Head Hossein Salami. Coincidence? Hardly. Iran supports Hamas but it controls Islamic Jihad. There is a difference. To understand the latter terrorist group's behavior over the past week, it is important to understand Iran's interests. One need not be a brilliant Mideast strategist to understand them: cause Israel as much hurt as possible. "We are with you on this path until the end – and let Palestine and the Palestinians know that they are not alone," Salami told Nakhalah during a meeting in Tehran.

Rockets Rain Down on Israel; During August 6, the Islamic Jihadist Organization shot more than 400 rockets towards Israel. Since the hostilities have started, Israel has been able to take out one of the commanders of the Islamic Jihad military forces, Tasir al-Jabari, and 15 more terrorists. al-Jabari was partly responsible for the 4,000 rockets that were shot in Israel during May 2021. There are wounded people from both sides, who weren't able to reach the bomb shelters. Defense Minister Gantz warns Hamas to stay out of the confrontations and reiterates that Israel will remain strong and the terror will stop.

As Rockets Rain Down, Many Vulnerable Ashkelon Residents Still Lack Adequate Shelter; On the third day of Operation Breaking Dawn, and as rocket alerts rang out repeatedly, Ashkelon's streets were largely silent. But in some corners of the city, an underground community emerged in municipal shelters. Occupants of such shelters who spoke to the media on Sunday, August 7, said they would rather be in their own homes. But they were forced to choose between comfort and safety, being among the roughly 40,000 Ashkelon residents who — despite being just some 10 kilometers (7 miles) from the Gaza Strip's northern border — still do not have access to adequate shelter from rockets. While several types of shelters provide protection against volleys from Gaza — among them protected rooms within personal apartments, reinforced building stairwells, shared shelters within buildings, and public shelters in neighborhoods — these residents said they do not have appropriate access to any of these options. With only seconds to run for cover once an air raid siren sounds, even the minute it takes to leave an apartment building and run exposed down the street to a shelter may be too long. Sitting in the corner she had claimed at one municipal shelter, Ksenia, 49, said she had already spent two weeks here last May, during Operation Guardians of the Wall. "I have asthma, I was in the ICU with coronavirus," said the Russian native who declined to share her last name. "I can't run from the fourth floor to the bottom of the stairwell in seven seconds. Also, we don't have a proper shelter." The army also shut Zikim Beach near the Gaza border and began blocking traffic between Ashkelon and Sderot.

Biden Welcomes Gaza Ceasefire, Says US Proud to Back Life-Saving Iron Dome; US President Joe Biden welcomes the ceasefire between Israel and the Gaza-based Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror group, which has gone into effect after over three days of fighting. Biden says the US has been in contact with officials from Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Qatar and Jordan in order to bring a swift end to the fighting, and he thanks Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi along with Qatari Emir Tamim Bin Hamad al-Thani for their central roles in the effort. The president also commends Prime Minister Yair Lapid and his government's "steady leadership throughout the crisis." As the White House did on the first day of the conflict, Biden expresses his support for Israel's right to defend itself against "indiscriminate" PIJ rocket fire and adds that the US "is proud of our support for Israel's Iron-Dome, which intercepted hundreds of rockets and saved countless lives." Earlier this year, the US approved an additional \$500 million in funding for Iron Dome replenishments following the May 2021 Gaza conflict.

Liz Truss: As PM, I Would Consider Moving Embassy to Jerusalem; UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss would consider moving her country's embassy to Jerusalem if she becomes Prime Minister following next month's Conservative Party leadership election, she wrote in a letter to Conservative

Friends of Israel on Friday, August 5. "I understand the importance and sensitivity of the location of the British Embassy in Israel," Truss wrote. "I've had many conversations with my good friend Prime Minister Yair Lapid on this topic. Acknowledging that, I will review a move to ensure we are operating on the strongest footing within Israel." Truss also supported Israel, separately, at the launch of Operation Breaking Dawn on Friday, with the Foreign Office tweeting that she said: "The UK stands by Israel and its right to defend itself. We condemn terrorist groups firing at civilians and violence which has resulted in casualties on both sides. We call for a swift end to the violence." In the letter to Conservative Friends of Israel, Truss wrote that she "remain[s] committed to standing up to Iranian hostility and their pursuit of nuclear weapons."

US Treasury Sanctions Companies Involved with Iran Petrochemical; The US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announced sanctions against six companies linked to Iran's Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industry Commercial Co. (PGPICC) – one of the largest petrochemical brokers in Iran – on Monday, August 1. UAE-based Blue Cactus Heavy Equipment and Machinery Spare Parts Trading will be sanctioned by the US Treasury for facilitating the sale of millions of dollars worth of Iranian-origin petroleum products. "The United States continues to pursue the path of diplomacy to achieve a mutual return to full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action," Brian E. Nelson, Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, said. "Until such time as Iran is ready to return to full implementation of its commitments, we will continue to enforce sanctions on the illicit sale of Iranian petroleum and petrochemicals," Nelson added. In lieu of a nuclear agreement, the US government has continued its strategy of economic pressure and has sanctioned Iranian businesses and organizations tied to the Islamic Republic or the IRGC.

Al-Qaeda Leader Ayman al-Zawahiri Killed in CIA Drone Strike; Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of al-Qaeda and one of the world's most-wanted terrorists who oversaw the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, alongside the group's founder, Osama bin Laden, was killed on Sunday, July 31, in a CIA drone strike in Afghanistan, US President Joe Biden announced on Monday. US officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Zawahiri was killed when he came out on the balcony of his safe house in Kabul on Sunday morning and was hit by "hellfire" missiles from a US drone. "Now justice has been delivered, and this terrorist leader is no more," Biden said in remarks from the White House. "No matter how long it takes, no matter where you hide, if you are a threat to our people, the United States will find you and take you out." He said he had authorized the precision strike in downtown Kabul and that no civilians were killed. US intelligence determined with "high confidence" that the man killed was Zawahiri, a senior administration official told reporters. No other casualties occurred.

'If I had a Gun I'd Shoot You' - Jewish Man Punched on NYC Subway; A Jewish man was punched while traveling on a New York City subway last Tuesday, July 26, in another incident in a spate of assaults on Jewish New Yorkers. Fima Zlatsin said in an interview that he was on the subway when a group entered his car with speakers, and one of the men did a dance flip, landing on Zlatsin's foot. The suspect, described by Zlatsin as an African-American man in his 20s, reportedly expressed that he thought that Zlatsin was filming with his phone following the alleged attacker's jumping on Zlatsin's foot. "Give me the phone, Jew," Zlatsin said the attacker demanded. Zlatsin said that he refused the demand, and was immediately punched in the face. "There's blood pouring out of my mouth, it's going all over my face, it's going all over my arms, it's on my shirt, I'm dripping in blood and no one in the Subway is doing anything," Zlatsin recalled in the interview.

Girding for Response to Arrest of PIJ Member, IDF Orders Closure of Gaza-Area Roads; The Israeli military ordered the closure of several main highways along the Gaza border on Tuesday morning, August 2, in a precautionary step against possible attacks from the coastal enclave, hours after the arrest of

a senior member of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror group in the West Bank. The Israel Defense Forces said in a statement that the decision was made following a situational assessment during which the army identified an uptick in activity by fighters tied to Islamic Jihad that posed “a direct threat of a possible attack on Israeli civilians.” The closed highways included Route 4 from Zikim Junction to the Erez Crossing; Route 34 from Yad Mordechai Junction to Nir Am Junction; and Route 232 from Nir Am Junction to the Kerem Shalom Crossing; and the access roads for farmers west of Route 232. The army also shut Zikim Beach near the Gaza border and began blocking traffic between Ashkelon and Sderot.

2 Years After Beirut Port Explosion, Lebanese People Still Suffering; This week marked the second anniversary of the Beirut port explosion. In the two years since the disaster in the heart of Lebanon’s capital city, the investigation into the blast has stalled and the Lebanese people still have not received a full accounting of, nor justice for what happened. And they are still suffering the consequences of the deadly blast. On August 4, 2020, some 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, which was stored in a warehouse at the port, exploded after an uncontrolled fire broke out in an adjacent warehouse, causing one of the most disastrous blasts in the history of the modern world. The disaster took the lives of 220 people, injured more than 6,500 and devastated the center of the city, destroying thousands of residential and commercial buildings and crippling the country, which was already suffering from an economic crisis and poor living conditions, exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. Following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, one of the world’s largest grain exporters, the global grain market experienced a severe shortage, causing prices to soar and harming the main importers, among them, Lebanon. A Lebanese economist told the media that the blast is the reason for Lebanon’s grain shortage. “The explosion destroyed the grain silos and the grain supplies were cut off and, since then, Lebanon relies on imports of grain from Ukraine,” he said.

AI-Based Tool for Lung Cancer Treatment Developed in Jerusalem; A new innovative tool that can be used to predict the effects of immunotherapy on patients suffering from lung cancer is under development at Shaare Zedek Medical Center, the Jerusalem hospital announced Tuesday, August 2. The AI (artificial intelligence)-based technology, named I3LUNG, will make use of machine and deep learning to analyze a wide variety of patient information in order to formulate a treatment plan that is suited to the specific medical situation of every patient. The development of the new innovation is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation funding program, which Israel joined in 2021. Shaare Zedek was chosen to become the first and only Israeli hospital to receive such a grant. The goal, the medical center says, is to create a new tool to enhance the decision-making of medical staff and patients during the treatment of lung cancer. The I3LUNG project is headed by Oncology Department head Prof. Nir Peled and Dr. Lila Rozman, head of the hospital's cancer research innovation department. Rozman explained that the information gathered by I3LUNG will come from a retrospective analysis of 2,000 lung cancer patients from oncology departments worldwide. "In addition, psychological research will be conducted to determine patients' preference in regards to the project," she said.

Not Only in Tel Aviv: New Start-Ups in the Negev and Galilee; The recently published data by the Innovation Authority show that Israel’s Start-Up Nation is primarily centered in Tel Aviv. The data speak for themselves: there are 2,383 hi-tech companies in Tel Aviv, whereas in all the other nine cities, including Jerusalem, Herzliya, Haifa and Ra’anana there are only 2,311 companies. Moreover, all the top ten on the list do not include any cities from Israel’s geographic periphery. Not even “Cyber Capital” Beersheba made it to the top. Currently, hi-tech remains the growth engine of the Israeli market. However, the concentration of hi-tech companies in Tel Aviv leads to the misconception that the finest minds for developing and doing business can be found only there. But there are fine minds in Ashdod and Beersheba in the south as well as in Safed and Kiryat Shmona in the north.



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