

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update August 25, 2022 **(28th Av, 5782)**



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IDF Chief of Staff Reveals 3rd Country Was Attacked During Breaking Dawn; IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kohavi has said the military attacked a third country while operating in Gaza during Operation Breaking Dawn, Israeli media reported. “Ten days ago, the IDF struck with great precision Tayseer Jabari, who is an arch-terrorist, and at the same time carried out a wave of arrests in the West Bank and... attacked a third country, and defended the rest of [Israel’s] borders,” Kohavi told a conference of Education Ministry department heads. “If there is no operation, then there is defense,” he said. “This is a very complex task that we must not take for granted. You saw the thwarting of Jabari, an arch-murderer, in a 14-story building. And we carried out the task with 20 Givati soldiers, who have to be very precise and take a very high level of risk.” Jabari, the top Palestinian Islamic Jihad commander killed in the Israeli bombing of an apartment in the Gaza Strip during Operation Breaking Dawn, was in charge of the terrorist group’s rocket arsenal and was its primary coordinator with Hamas.

Palestinians and Israelis Battle over Jerusalem; Hours after Sunday morning’s, August 14, terrorist attack near the Western Wall, Israeli policemen again visited the home of Adnan Gheith, the Palestinian Authority “governor” of Jerusalem, in the village of Silwan. This time, however, the police officers did not come to arrest Gheith, who had been released from detention days earlier. The purpose of the visit was to check whether the “governor” was complying with the terms of the house arrest imposed on him by the authorities due to his alleged illegal activities on behalf of the PA in the city. Since his appointment to the top job in 2018, Gheith, a senior official with the Palestinian ruling Fatah faction headed by PA President Mahmoud Abbas, has been detained at least 34 times by the Jerusalem Police. Gheith has also been served with a military order banning him from entering the West Bank or contacting senior representatives of the PA and Fatah. This means that the “governor,” who holds an Israeli-issued ID card in his capacity as a permanent resident of Jerusalem, is not able to report to work at the headquarters of the Jerusalem Governorate in the town of A-Ram, which is located outside the boundaries of the Jerusalem Municipality, north of the city. The crackdown on Gheith and the terrorist attack – which was carried out by another resident of Silwan, Amir Sidawii who allegedly shot eight people on a bus near King David’s Tomb – are

seen by Palestinians in the context of the ongoing battle over Jerusalem with Israel. It is hard to find a resident of east Jerusalem who does not want to continue living under Israeli rule. Yet many feel that Israel does not want them in the city, while the PA is not doing enough to help them stay there.

Israel's Envoy to Germany: 'No One Will Invite Abbas Back Here Anytime Soon' – Interview; Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas may not be welcome in Germany for some time, following a provocative statement trivializing the Holocaust that he made during a news conference in Berlin, with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. Abbas on August 16 accused Israel of committing “50 holocausts” against the Palestinian people; the following day he amended his statement, saying he was speaking about Israeli “crimes.” Israel’s ambassador in Berlin, Ron Prosor, told a media outlet that German politicians are “furious with (Abbas) for exploiting the stage he got.” “From what I see, I doubt Abu Mazen will be invited here again any time soon,” Prosor said, using Abbas’ nom de guerre. Prosor, who served in several senior positions in Israel’s foreign ministry, is considered one of the country’s most senior diplomats. He emphasized how wide the consensus is among German politicians against Abbas’ statement. Scholz did not comment on Abbas’ statement while standing on stage next to him, but on August 17 tweeted: “I am disgusted by the outrageous remarks made by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. For us Germans in particular, any trivialization of the singularity of the Holocaust is intolerable and unacceptable. I condemn any attempt to deny the crimes of the Holocaust.”

Hezbollah Backers Praise Rushdie Attack, Highlighting Lebanese Shiite Divisions; The stabbing of author Salman Rushdie has laid bare divisions in Lebanon’s Shiite Muslim community, pitting a few denouncing the violence against fervent followers of the Iran-backed Shiite terrorist Hezbollah group who have praised the attack. One Rushdie defender received death threats. The attack struck close to home among Lebanon’s Shiites. The assailant, 24-year-old Hadi Matar, is a dual Lebanese-US citizen, and his father lives in a village in Hezbollah-dominated southern Lebanon. Matar’s mother has said she believes her son’s visit to the village of Yaroun in 2018 turned him into a religious zealot. The religious edict, or fatwa, urging Muslims to kill Rushdie was issued in 1989 by Iran’s then-spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who accused the author of blasphemy for his portrayal of the Prophet Muhammad in the novel “The Satanic Verses.” Iran, a close Hezbollah ally, has praised the attack, but denied direct involvement. Hezbollah officials have been tight-lipped since the attack on the 75-year-old Rushdie as he was about to give a lecture in western New York. A Hezbollah official declined to comment when contacted by a media outlet.

Senior Israeli Official to US: The Iranians Refused the Agreement, Don't Insist on It; A very senior Israeli political official said on August 20 that Israel is holding a very intensive dialogue with Western powers regarding the nuclear talks with Iran and is sending a clear message on the matter. According to the official, the message conveyed to the leaders of the countries is that the Europeans have sent Iran a final offer, which does not meet the principles to which the Americans committed themselves, and stated that this offer would be a matter of "take it or leave it". The source noted that "Iran refused the offer, so it's time to get up and leave. Anything else sends a strong message of weakness." He added that "now is the time to sit down and talk about what to do next to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. The IAEA report from the end of May claims that Iran does not provide reliable explanations on the open cases, something that should turn on a bright red light in the international community."

Israel and Turkey to Restore Ambassadors in Full Renewal of Diplomatic Ties; Israel and Turkey announced a full renewal of diplomatic ties on Wednesday, August 17, following a recent phone conversation between Prime Minister Yair Lapid and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Lapid hailed the development in a statement released by the Prime Minister’s Office as “an important asset for regional stability and very important economic news for the citizens of Israel,” adding, “We will continue

to strengthen Israel's standing in the world." As part of the upgrade in ties, both countries are slated to soon exchange ambassadors and consuls general, though no timeline was provided. "This restoration of diplomatic relations is a continuation of the positive direction in the development of relations over the past year, since President [Isaac] Herzog's diplomatic visit to Ankara, and the reciprocal visits of the foreign ministers to Jerusalem and Ankara," the statement said.

Israeli App Helps Deaf Community Engage and Cope in War and Peace; With war and conflict being so much a part of everyday life, an Israeli company has developed a free real-time and on-demand sign language interpretation app for members of the deaf community to use on smartphones. With a team of interpreters available and speaking and signing in various sign languages, the video call service is available anywhere, anytime. During the last round of violence earlier this month between Israel and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza, the company Sign Now conducted its first pilot tests with Gaza residents. "We don't get involved in politics. We're here to lead a social revolution," said Tomer Levy, Sign Now's founder and CEO. Additionally, he said that 20 Gazans have used the app during this pilot, communicating with Arab-speaking interpreters. They were able to get updates on the situation in and outside of Gaza, communicate with doctors and, most importantly, share their feelings with their colleagues.

Double Miracle in Jerusalem: Brothers Shot by Terrorist, Escape with Minor Injuries; On August 14 around 1:30 am, a Palestinian terrorist opened fire on two different locations – firstly at a bus on the road near the Western Wall, and subsequently in a nearby parking lot, adjacent to King David's Tomb. The shooting resulted in 7 people being wounded in total, with two of them in serious condition. The terrorist reportedly started shooting while people were boarding the bus and injured a pregnant woman in her abdomen. 6 hours after the attack, he turned himself in and was taken for questioning. Among the wounded were brothers Duvi (16) and Elazar (19) Prover from Telzstone, a suburb of Jerusalem, who were in the Old City when the Palestinian terrorist opened fire. "We were getting on the bus," Duvi told Kikar Ha'Shabbat. "I didn't even realize I was shot. I was in the middle of helping a woman in a wheelchair get on the bus. My brother Elazar was tying a tourniquet on a seriously injured victim. The paramedic told him on the way to the hospital that he had saved his life." "Both my brother and I were saved by a miracle," Duvi said. "The bullet simply entered on one side and came out from the other." Their brother Yair described the prognosis. "The orthopedists at Hadassah said that Duvi had amazing luck regarding the location of the injury. It was truly a miracle. If the bullet had hit a few centimeters deeper, he wouldn't be alive. It was a huge miracle because five minutes earlier, a bus full of people passed by the station, and then my brothers' bus arrived, which was much emptier. This was the bus that was hit and since it was emptier, there were fewer injuries."

Islamic Jihad Accidentally Killed a Hamas Terrorist with a Misfired Rocket; A Hamas terrorist was accidentally killed by a misfired Palestinian Islamic Jihad rocket, during Operation Breaking Dawn, according to information released by Hamas and Palestinian media during the conflict, together with corroborating statements made on Sunday, August 14, by the IDF Spokesperson's Unit. On August 7, the last day of the three-day battle, Palestinian and Israeli media reported that an explosive had struck a house in the central Gaza town of Bureij. Three boys, 13-year-old twins, and a 9-year-old, were killed in the explosion, and their father was injured, it was initially reported that evening. While Israeli media only reported three deaths as a result of the incident in Bureij, other media outlets reported just over an hour later, that the father, Yasser Nimr Al-Nabahin, had died of his injuries. Hamas's military wing, The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, immediately published a notice of his death. Nabahin was described by the terrorist group as an "al-Qassam mujahid" (holy warrior) and one of the military wing's "loyal knights." US media reported last Monday that Nabahin was an off-duty "Hamas-affiliated" policeman, and Palestinian media also reported that the Gaza Interior Ministry had him on its payroll as a police officer.

The Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency), however, previously stated that Hamas police serve in a “dual function” with the al-Qassam Brigades, “de facto still part of Hamas combat troops, participating in military activity against the IDF.” The incident in Bureij was the result of the failed launching of a rocket by Islamic Jihad against Israel, Jewish and Israeli media reported on August 7, according to a preliminary IDF inquiry. The Associated Press last Monday also described the incident as “suspicious,” listing it with other possible Islamic Jihad rocket accidents. On Sunday evening, the IDF Spokesperson’s Unit confirmed that a misfired rocket was responsible for the Bureij incident.

IDF Says It Foiled Hamas Attack Tunnel with Two Branches Along Northern Gaza Border; The Israel Defense Forces on Monday, August 15, revealed it discovered and “foiled” a tunnel dug by the Hamas terror group in the northern Gaza Strip, that crossed into Israeli territory, though it did not manage to penetrate Israel’s border barrier. According to the IDF, the “terror tunnel,” which had two branches, did not pose a danger to Israeli towns along the border, as Israel has a high-tech underground wall protecting its southern towns against Gazan attack tunnels, which once posed a major threat. Israel’s subterranean barrier — an underground reinforced concrete wall that is studded with sensors to detect tunnels — runs parallel to the overground border — a 20-foot (six-meter) steel fence — inside Israeli territory, several dozen meters from the internationally marked border. The IDF also has a network of radar arrays, other surveillance sensors, and remote-controlled weaponry along the border. The IDF said it had found the tunnel as part of a “constant and ongoing effort to locate terror tunnels and neutralize them.” “This is an attack tunnel with two branches, which crossed into Israeli territory but did not cross the new security barrier, and therefore did not pose a risk to the residents of Israel at any stage,” said Brig. Gen. Nimrod Aloni, the outgoing commander of the IDF’s Gaza Division. He appeared to be indicating that had Hamas members exited the tunnel, they would have still faced Israel’s tall fence running along the border. According to Aloni, a part of the tunnel had been struck during May 2021’s 11-day war between Israel and Hamas but had since been repaired and rebuilt, including the two new branches which extended into Israel. The IDF did not say exactly how deep the tunnel was but said its entrance was in the Gaza City area. The tunnel was rendered inoperable after the military poured massive amounts of concrete into the two passages.

Iran Keeps up Demands, After Deadline to Accept Final Nuclear Deal Draft; Iran made a counteroffer to the European Union’s “final” draft to renew the 2015 nuclear deal, at midnight on Monday, August 15, the deadline set by Brussels. Mohammad Marandi, a spokesperson for Iran’s nuclear-negotiating team, tweeted on Tuesday that Tehran “wants to make sure that if the current or future US president withdraws from a deal, the US will ‘have to pay a price.’” “This is the best way to protect a potential deal,” Marandi added. “If the US doesn’t have to pay a price for violating or leaving a future deal, history will repeat itself.” Earlier, Marandi reportedly told, “I can’t say there will be a deal, but we’re closer than we’ve been before.” Iran’s response, as one diplomatic source put it, was a “yes, but,” rather than keeping with the EU’s “take it or leave it” formulation. Tehran essentially responded to the EU’s deadline by trying to extend it and continue negotiations, the source said.

Iran’s Hardliners Threaten to Kill Donald Trump After Salman Rushdie Attack; Iran’s hardliners have threatened to kill former US president Donald Trump and his secretary of state Mike Pompeo following the stabbing of Sir Salman Rushdie - allegedly by Hadi Matar, a Muslim who has been praised by the religious regime in Tehran. A media outlet, whose editor is personally selected by Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has suggested that after Rushdie, “it is now the turn of Trump and Pompeo”. “God has taken his revenge on Rushdie. The attack on him shows it is not a difficult job to take similar revenge on Trump and Pompeo and from now on they will feel more in danger for their lives,” reads the paper’s front-page editorial. “If the conditions for a fair trial of Mr. Trump and Mr. Pompeo and other criminals become available, they will be charged for committing this heinous crime and will face the

consequence of their criminal actions. However, let there be no doubt that I say here to all American statesmen that the hand of revenge will eventually come out of the sleeve of our nation.”

French Academic Held by Iran Sent Back to Prison After 5-day Reprieve; A French-Iranian academic held in Iran for the past three years in a case that has raised tensions between Tehran and Paris has returned to prison after a brief furlough, her supporters said. Fariba Adelkhah was last week allowed to leave Tehran’s Evin prison for five days. Hopes that the measure may be extended were not fulfilled, her support group said in a statement published late Sunday, August 14. “Unfortunately, Fariba’s five-day leave was not extended, or transformed into house arrest,” it said. “It gave her a break, but it’s still bad news.” Activists say that at least 20 foreign and dual nationals are being held by Tehran on baseless charges, in a deliberate policy of hostage diplomacy aimed at extracting concessions from the West. It is relatively common for prisoners in Iran to be allowed brief leave for a time at home with families before returning to jail. A specialist in Shiite Islam and a research director at Sciences Po University in Paris, Adelkhah was arrested in June 2019 along with her French colleague and partner Roland Marchal.

50 Years After Massacre, Israel Wins Gold at European Championships in Munich; Israel's men's team took home a gold medal in the marathon team competition at the European Championships, held in the German city of Munich, 50 years after the massacre at the 1972 Olympics that claimed the lives of 11 Israeli athletes. Israeli runners Marhu Teferi and Gashau Ayala won the silver and bronze medals, with the former finishing in second place and the latter in third. At this year's competition in Munich, it was decided that medals would be awarded to both - individual athletes and teams. The teams' final place was to be determined by the best overall result of its three fastest runners. Teferi was even close to taking a gold medal for himself, but German athlete Richard Ringer passed him right as they were nearing the finish line. The two were immediately followed by Ayala.

Israeli Space-Tech Startup Can Now Locate Lithium Deposits on Earth; Using technology originally intended to find deposits of subterranean water on Mars, Israeli start-up ASTERRA’s satellite-image analysis software can now detect deposits of lithium under Earth’s surface from space. Currently one of the tech manufacturing market’s most sought-after minerals, lithium is used in electric vehicles, semiconductors, chips, cell phones – anywhere you find a battery, you’ll probably see lithium in use. As such, the company’s tech development discovery is a remarkable windfall, and ASTERRA has registered a patent for the new use of its technology in finding lithium reservoirs around the world, while still developing its water-finding capabilities. Under founder Lauren Guy’s management, ASTERRA launched its CTO office (which Guy now helms) at the beginning of 2022, aiming to expand the technology’s uses to additional verticals and find other natural resources under the ground – the company decided to focus its efforts on lithium first, given its increasing demand and currently insufficient supply.



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