

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 8, 2022 ***(12th Elul, 5782)***



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US Lawmakers to Biden: We Are Deeply Concerned About Reported Iran Deal; A group of 50 House Democrats and Republicans, led by Reps. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) and Andrew Garbarino (R-NY), on Thursday, September 1, wrote a letter to President Joe Biden in which they call on him to share with Congress the text of a potential agreement with Iran to return to the 2015 nuclear deal before any papers are signed. The letter expressed deep concerns about reported provisions in a potential agreement with Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. Concerns include weakening the effectiveness of terrorism-related sanctions on the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and allowing Russia to have a role in Iran's nuclear capabilities. "We are deeply concerned about multiple provisions that reportedly may be contained in the final language of any agreement with the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism," it says. "For example, the new agreement reportedly states that, 'Non-U.S. persons doing business with Iranian persons that are not on the [U.S. sanctions list] will not be exposed to sanctions merely as a result of those Iranian persons engaging in separate transactions involving Iranian persons on the [U.S. sanctions list] (including Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), its officials, or its subsidiaries or affiliates).'" "While we commend you for refusing to remove the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC) designation as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) — one of our most powerful tools used to compel state sponsors of terror to change — the aforementioned reported provision creates a troubling precedent. We are concerned that it could significantly dilute the effectiveness of terrorism-related sanctions on the IRGC, Iran's paramilitary terror arm, and provides the organization with a pathway for sanctions evasion," the letter says.

Meeting German President in Berlin, Herzog Denounces 'Toothless' Iran Deal; President Isaac Herzog publicly stressed Israel's opposition to the current Iran nuclear deal draft, as he met on Sunday, September 4, in Berlin with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. "Iran is openly striving for Israel's destruction, and the international community must treat it severely, firmly, and assertively," said Herzog in comments alongside Steinmeier following their meeting. "Toothless and watered-down accords and sweeping benefits will not stop Iran." Herzog declared that Iran "has proven that it cannot be trusted,"

and said Israel “will stand up and assertively and powerfully defend its citizens and Jewish communities all around the world. We expect our allies to stand firmly by our side at this hour.” Germany is one of the main world powers currently negotiating a return to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, with a deal seen as likely in the next few weeks, despite persistent gaps between Tehran and Washington.

Israel Buys Refueling Tankers that Will Help It Attack Iran's Nuclear Sites; In seeking to further its reach, as a nuclear deal between Iran and the United States looks more likely to be signed, the Israel Air Force has signed a contract with Boeing to purchase four multi-mission KC-46 refueling tankers in a deal valued at \$927.5 million. The four new planes that will begin to arrive in 2025 are set to replace the IAF’s aging fleet of Re’em Boeing 707 tankers, aircraft that have been flying in various guises for well over half a century. The deal includes tanker services support, maintenance and repairs, logistics, and spares. The planes, which are based on the veteran Boeing 767 widebody airliner, will be built by the company in Seattle. “This contract further strengthens the US-Israel alliance and continues the decades-long relationship between Boeing and the Israeli Air Force,” said Ido Nehushtan, president of Boeing Israel and a past commander of the IAF. “The KC-46A will benefit Israel’s efforts to ensure national security and regional stability,” he said.

Syrian FM: Israel 'Playing with Fire' after Overnight Airstrikes; Alleged Israeli airstrikes targeted the international airport in Aleppo, in northern Syria, as well as sites near Damascus on Wednesday evening, August 31. Syria's foreign minister said on Thursday that Israel was "playing with fire", following the alleged Israeli strikes the previous evening. The strikes resulted in material damage only, according to Syrian media which said Syria's air defenses shot down a number of Israeli missiles around the capital. There was no immediate comment from Israeli officials. In comments reported by the same media outlet on Thursday, September 1, Syria's top diplomat Faisal al-Meqdad said Israel was threatening regional security. "Israel is playing with fire and is putting the regional military and security situations at risk of an explosion," the agency reported him saying. "Syria will not remain silent regarding the repeated Israeli attacks and the Israelis will pay the price sooner or later."

New Anti-Semitism Center Opens in London; A new center for studying contemporary anti-Semitism is opening in London, England. It has been reported that the London Centre for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism will launch a three-day conference this weekend. The center described its mission as “challenging the intellectual underpinnings of antisemitism in public life and to confront the hostile environment for Jews in universities.” The organizers of the institute described its creation as a response to anti-Semitism “leaking into academic thought and liberal cultural life.” In response, the center will serve to “define, debate, deconstruct and defeat this hostile environment.” Its mandate is to become “the international hub for the work, rather than merely a provincial endeavour,” according to the report. The two-day kickoff event will include an academic conference with international scholars sharing knowledge on antisemitism.

Iran Says It Seized 2 US Unmanned Vessels in Red Sea; Iran's Navy said Friday, September 2, that it recently seized two US Navy "small data collection vessels" after it found them "abandoned on the international shipping route." According to Iranian media, the Iranian Navy's Jamaran destroyer encountered several small data collection vessels and asked the equipment's controller to "stop this type of behavior and move and change the direction of the movement." However, after sailing around for a little longer, the destroyer found the vessels again, and stopped and took control of them before releasing them to ensure navigation safety. The destroyer then encountered the vessels for the third time and "took action to control and stop the vessels in order to prevent possible terrorist incidents and prevented the occurrence of unforeseen incidents," according to an Iranian media outlet. The Iranian Navy claimed that the vessels were "sailing out of control, causing insecurity and jeopardizing the safety of vessels."

Brain Tumors Vanish in Mice after Israeli Study Finds and Destroys ‘Power Source’; An Israeli study has eliminated glioblastoma, the most deadly brain tumor, in mice, by identifying and destroying their “power source.” The Tel Aviv University scientists behind the peer-reviewed research are now working on identifying drugs to replicate the effect in humans. They hope to find an existing drug that may work and then repurpose it, which they say could happen within two years if things go smoothly. The method is basically to “starve” glioblastoma tumors by removing their source of energy, said brain immunologist Dr. Lior Mayo, the lead author of the study. He told Israeli media that normally, scientists try to attack tumors directly, for example with chemotherapy. “Instead, we decided to ask if there’s anything we can change in the tumor’s environment that could harm it,” he explained. Astrocytes are brain cells that are so-called because they look like stars. Glioblastoma tumors shift the surrounding astrocytes to an unusually active state. Mayo, and his Ph.D. students Adi Tessler and Rita Perelroizen, wanted to know what the astrocytes do in relation to the tumor. Using genetic modification, he could produce mice with glioblastoma tumors, and then remove all astrocytes from around the tumor. “We found that when we did this, the tumors vanished and stayed away for as long as we repressed the astrocytes,” he said.

Mossad Chief to Visit Washington, as Israel Steps up Efforts to Reshape Iran Deal; Mossad chief David Barnea is traveling to Washington this week, as part of Israel’s intensifying efforts to shape the emerging nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers, which in its current form, both Barnea and senior government figures have lambasted as a bad deal. A senior government official confirmed Sunday, August 28, that the White House was aware of Barnea’s trip, but would not elaborate as to whether the Biden administration was involved in its planning. Barnea will be the third senior Israeli official to visit Washington in recent days to discuss the Iran deal after Defense Minister Benny Gantz and national security adviser Eyal Hulata. As part of a reenergized Israeli media effort in the past weeks, the Mossad director made rare comments last Thursday, August 25, telling reporters that the deal was “very bad for Israel” and “based on lies.” Barnea, Prime Minister Yair Lapid, and Gantz have been unified in their message that the deal is “bad” and Israel will not be bound by it, reserving the right to take action against the Iranian nuclear program. In advance of Barnea’s visit, Lapid said that Israel’s military and intelligence services are redoubling efforts to combat the threat of a nuclear Iran.

Iran’s President Says Country Not Pursuing Nuclear Weapons; Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi gave a speech on Monday, August 29, in which he covered a variety of topics. He said he did not plan to meet US President Joe Biden during an upcoming trip to the UN General Assembly. This comes as talks on the Iran nuclear deal continue in Europe, and as rumors percolate in Washington that America will return to the agreement. Raisi also slammed “Zionist threats,” asserting that Iran had the ability to confront Israel. The Iranian leader said Israel was an “arrogant” regime and that Iran had a right to have a nuclear industry. “We have repeatedly stated that nuclear weapons have no place in the doctrine of the Islamic Republic,” he said, claiming that Iran was not pursuing them. He did say, however, that the current nuclear industry in his country is the result of indigenous scientific success and cannot be taken from it. “Iran’s nuclear industry is needed and used in agriculture, oil and gas, medicine, and many other industries,” he said.

World Vision Defendant el-Halabi Sentenced to 12 Years; The Beersheba District Court on Tuesday, August 30, sentenced World Vision defendant Mohammad el-Halabi to 12 years in prison for a conviction, on a series of terror financing charges, around six years after his arrest and under pressure from the High Court of Justice to stop dragging its feet. His convictions were handed down in June, when he was also acquitted of one charge of assisting the enemy, based on the idea that, as a Gaza resident, he was not a citizen of a state. Halabi’s lawyer Maher Hana said that he would appeal the conviction to the Supreme Court. Conversely, the prosecution said it was considering appealing, noting it had requested between a

16-21 year jail sentence. The court on Tuesday said that a harsh sentence was needed to deter potential future criminality by humanitarian workers who might think their positions in NGOs could serve as cover for aiding terror groups.

Perpetrators of Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes in New York Routinely Receive No Prison Time; In the last four years, only 1 out of 118 suspects arrested in New York City for anti-Jewish hate crimes, has been convicted and sentenced to prison time. This alarming statistic was recently revealed in a study conducted by Americans Against Anti-Semitism (AAA), which also notes that the “vast majority of perpetrators of anti-Jewish hate crimes are members of other minority groups, not white supremacists.” “Since 2018, of 118 potentially trackable individuals arrested for anti-Jewish hate crimes, AAA positively identified 84, of which only 1 has been convicted and sentenced to a significant prison term; 15 accepted plea deals that do not appear to involve any prison time; 23 have had hate crime charges removed or criminal charges dropped altogether; 22 are still ‘pending;’ and 23 remain unknown having totally disappeared from criminal court records,” according to the study. New York has recorded a more than 300% increase in anti-Semitic hate crimes in the first three months of 2022 compared with last year, media reported.

Israel Looks to Increase Defense Cooperation with Japan – DM ; Defense Minister Benny Gantz landed in Tokyo on Monday, August 29, for a visit to mark 70 years of diplomatic ties between Japan and Israel. During his visit, Gantz will attend a series of meetings with Japanese security and government officials. This is the first visit of its kind in a decade. "I shared with the Secretary the importance of strategic defense cooperation between our two strong democracies in light of growing regional and global challenges that threaten security, food and energy supplies, and economic growth," Gantz said. Among those traveling with Gantz are Defense Ministry Director-General Amir Eshel, Defense Ministry Chief of Staff Maayan Israeli, Ambassador of Israel to Japan Gilad Cohen, Defense Attache Alon Yehoshua, and Military Secretary Brig.-General Yaki Dolf.

Can Israeli-made Artificial Nanodiamonds Change the World of Medicine?; Particles of nicotine on patches attached to the skin succeed in penetrating the body and help wean the wearer off smoking – but only because the particles are no larger than 100 nanometers (each of which is one-thousandth of a centimeter). For other molecules to enter the skin – one of the largest and most accessible organs in the human body – it is impossible for medicinal and even cosmetic treatments to penetrate the deep layers. Because the particles are so small and difficult to see, it is equally challenging to determine their exact location inside the body – information needed to ensure that they reach the intended target tissue. Today, such information is obtained through invasive and often painful biopsies. But a new approach developed by researchers at Bar-Ilan University (BIU) in Ramat Gan provides an innovative solution to overcoming both of these barriers. Combining techniques in nanotechnology and optics, they produced nanometric diamond particles so small they can penetrate the skin to deliver a variety of remedies. In addition, they created a safe, laser-based optical method that quantifies nanodiamond penetration into the various layers of the skin and determines their location and concentration within body tissue in a noninvasive manner – even eliminating the need for some biopsies.

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