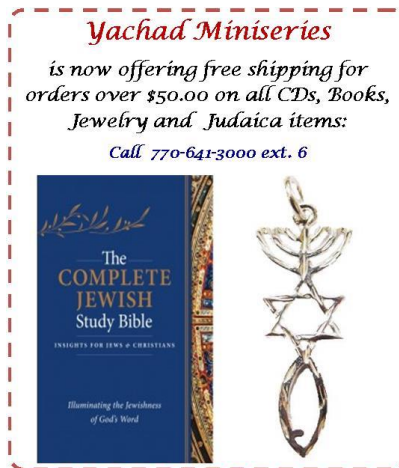


Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 22, 2022 (26th Elul, 5782)



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Hamas Trying to Instigate Conflict in Jerusalem over Temple Mount – NSC Chief Hulata; Hamas and extremist Palestinian forces are trying to escalate the situation on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, with the aim of having it develop into an all-out conflict with Israel, Eyal Hulata, head of the National Security Council, said on Thursday, September 15. “There are constant efforts by Hamas and others to escalate and create a narrative that al-Aqsa is in danger, and to turn Jerusalem into an explosive detonator,” Hulata said at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) in Herzliya. “Israel has not changed its policy on the Temple Mount, and does not want to change its policy on the Temple Mount,” he said. “We are in a very sensitive time, before the holidays and the election. These things have a great influence.” His words referenced the status quo understanding, by which Jews may visit Judaism's holiest site, but only Muslims may pray at the al-Aksa mosque located on the historic hilltop which is the third holiest religious site in Islam. Right-wing activists have pushed back at the status quo restrictions, with an increasing number of Jews unofficially heading to the site to pray. The right-wing NGO Beyadenu – Returning to the Temple Mount, reported on Thursday that there was a 95% increase in the number of Jewish worshippers praying there, from 25,582 in 2021 to 50,000 this year.

IDF Detects Limited Iranian, Hezbollah Withdrawal from Syria; The Israeli military has identified the withdrawal of some Iranian militia forces, as well as Iranian and Hezbollah operatives withdrawing from Syria. Iran has been one of the main allies of Bashar al-Assad’s regime in the decade-long war that ravaged the country, sending thousands of militia fighters and equipment in an attempt to entrench itself there. The withdrawal of the forces detected by the IDF comes after a Saudi-Arabian newspaper reported that Russian officials demanded the Iranians leave several sites in Syria, including its military headquarters in the western Hama province, which is situated next to the Syrian army’s Regiment 49 base. According to the report, Moscow made the request in order to remove potential targets for Israel that are located near Russian military sites. Despite increased tension between Israel and Russia, the two militaries have a de-confliction mechanism in order to prevent unnecessary friction during IAF operations. In an attempt to thwart Tehran’s regional hegemony aspirations and the smuggling of advanced weaponry to Hezbollah in

Lebanon from Iran, Israel has been carrying out its war-between-the-wars campaign (known as MABAM in Hebrew) for close to a decade. The IDF believes that MABAM has led to a strategic change in the region and destroyed the vision of Qassem Soleimani, the former Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force commander who was killed in an American airstrike in Baghdad in 2020.

Iran's Raisi Tells Putin Cooperation Makes US-sanctioned Countries 'Stronger'; Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi on Thursday, September 15, told his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin that the cooperation among countries sanctioned by the United States will make them "stronger." "The relationship between countries that are sanctioned by the US, such as Iran, Russia or other countries, can overcome many problems and issues and make them stronger," Raisi said in a meeting with Putin in Uzbekistan. "The Americans think whichever country they impose sanctions on, it will be stopped. Their perception is a wrong one." Putin hailed growing ties with Tehran as he met Raisi on the sidelines of a regional summit. "On the bilateral level, cooperation is developing positively," Putin said, as Moscow looks to use the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Uzbekistan to show it is not isolated internationally despite its invasion of Ukraine. "We are doing everything to make Iran a full member of the SCO," Putin added, in reference to Tehran's application for full membership in the group, which brings together China, Russia, India, Pakistan, and four ex-Soviet Central Asian countries.

US Indicts 3 Iranian Nationals for Multiple Cyberattacks – FBI; The FBI announced the indictment of three Iranian nationals for their part in multiple cyberattacks on hundreds of companies, organizations, and institutions. The three Iranian nationals being charged are Mansour Ahmadi, Ahmad Khatibi Aghda, and Amir Hossein Nickaein Ravari. They were among a group of cybercriminals that were attacking critical infrastructures and public services that many people rely on. They were also attempting to steal information for their own personal gain, according to the FBI. "They were looking to steal information, encrypt networks and sell private data, all in the hopes of persuading victims to pay sizeable ransoms," FBI Director Christopher Wray said in a statement. "In addition to targeting victims here in the US, the defendants also targeted companies and entities around the world, including in their own country of Iran, demonstrating that few targets were off-limits."

Israel Offers Intel to CIA on Alleged Terror-linked Palestinian NGOs; The Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) has provided the CIA with new intelligence regarding Palestinian civil society organizations that Israel has accused of involvement in terrorism. The information was provided to the CIA two weeks ago, but the agency has not discussed the issue publicly since the report was published. Israel is hoping to convince the US of its position on the NGOs after Washington, the European Union, and the United Nations heavily criticized Jerusalem's moves against the groups. The latest attempt to convince the Biden administration that the groups have ties to terrorism, apparently came last month when Israel closed several organizations it declared to be illegal last October. The organizations have said Israel merely wants to silence them and their activities, which often involve political criticism and activism, including protests against Israeli control of Palestinians in the West Bank. Israel has said the organizations wear two hats – one helping with human rights issues and the other aiding the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

If Nasrallah Attacks Karish Gas Field, Lebanon Will Pay the Price – Gantz; Israel warned that Lebanon would pay the price for any Hezbollah attack on its offshore Karish gas field, even as it said it hoped a US-brokered deal to set a maritime boundary in the north was close to completion. "If [Hezbollah leader Hassan] Nasrallah wants to try and harm and to complicate this process, he is welcome to do so, the price is Lebanon," Defense Minister Benny Gantz told Reichman University's 21st World Summit on Counter-Terrorism on Thursday morning, September 15. "I hope for his sake that he won't do this, we are prepared to defend our interests." Gantz's words come as US envoy Amos Hochstein appears to be on the

edge of concluding a deal between the Lebanese and Israeli governments to set a maritime border off the Mediterranean Sea. It would give Israel rights to the Karish gas field and Lebanon the right to the abutting Kana gas field. Finalizing the deal has become increasingly urgent given that the Karish gas field is set to start production next month. Hezbollah has issued threats against the deal. In the end, there will be two gas rigs, one that belongs to Israel and one that belongs to Lebanon, Gantz said, adding that the only question is whether there will be a violent outbreak in the middle, but that the final outcome will be the same.

Germany: Broadcaster Revises Code of Conduct to Support Israel's Right to Exist; Germany's public broadcaster, Deutsche Welle, has revised its code of conduct to require support for Israel's right to exist, and employees who fail to do so may now be fired. The move announced on September 1 preceded a court order two weeks ago that DW reinstates a former employee after she was fired over comments about Israel, that could be construed as anti-Semitic. In all, seven employees from the broadcaster's Arabic service were let go last year on similar grounds, and so far two have successfully sued DW for reinstatement. The revised conduct code appears to be timed to strengthen the company's hand in such cases in the future. DW spokesperson Vera Tellmann told Jewish media in an email that the company "is awaiting the reasons for the verdict in one case and reserves the right to take further legal action." DW is not the only German media company to expressly endorse Israel's right to exist. In 1967, the Axel Springer company, one of Germany's biggest media conglomerates that now owns multiple other companies, established "corporate principles" that include "support [for] the Jewish people and the right of existence of the State of Israel." The DW code made public on September 1 declares that "Germany's historical responsibility for the Holocaust is also a reason for which we support the right of Israel to exist." It also adds that "discrimination of any kind, such as sexism, racism, and antisemitism... can have consequences in terms of labor law, including dismissal." Tellmann told that labor law consequences would be applied "depending on the severity of the violations." Denial of Israel's right to exist would be such a violation, she added.

New Israeli Research Could Halt Advancement of Parkinson's Disease; A new study conducted by the University of Haifa has identified processes that may help prevent the spread of Parkinson's disease. The study, published in the prestigious journal *NJP Parkinson's Disease*, has for the first time identified neural processes that are common to various different types of the disease. The processes are related to the ability of cells to connect to the extracellular matrix and their capacity to create new synapses. Thanks to the use of the innovative Sendai Reprogramming technique, the researchers were able to show for the first time that even in sporadic Parkinson's patients for which no animal model has yet been developed, these processes are also impaired. Parkinson's patients suffer from massive loss of nerve cells in the area of the brain known as the Substantia nigra, which is packed with dopaminergic neurons. Dopamine is required in the process of transfer of messages between brain cells and plays a key role in the ability to perform motor actions properly. One of the problems in the research – and development of drugs – is the fact that only 15 percent of Parkinson's cases are caused by known genetic factors, while 85 percent are defined as "sporadic." Accordingly, it is only possible to create a model for the disease in animals relating to those 15 percent of the cases. "Most of the current studies were undertaken on a small number of familiar Parkinson's mutations caused by genetic factors since it is not possible to create models for sporadic forms of the disease. Thanks to the ability to create induced pluripotent stem cells for patients with "sporadic" disease, we managed to show for the first time the presence of impaired neural and cellular mechanisms in a similar manner across all the types of disease we examined," explained the study's author Dr. Shani Stern, a senior lecturer at the University's Sagol Department of Neurobiology.

Gantz: Iran Converting Syrian Military Sites into Missile Factories; Defense Minister Benny Gantz on Monday, September 12, revealed a map of military facilities across Syria he alleged were used to manufacture advanced munitions for Iran and its terror proxies. "Iran is building terror industries in Syria

for its needs. Recently, it started building advanced industries in Yemen and Lebanon as well. This trend must be stopped,” Gantz said in New York. The remarks came amid an apparent uptick in airstrikes widely attributed to Israel in Syria. Gantz pointed to the Scientific Studies and Research Center, known as CERS, which has a facility near the northwestern Syrian city of Masyaf long associated with the production of precision surface-to-surface missiles, including the process of casting solid rocket motors, as well as chemical weapons. “The sites that I reveal to you on the map, and in particular the underground site in Masyaf where precision missiles are manufactured, constitute a significant potential threat to the region and to Israel,” Gantz said, addressing a media conference.

'Israel Has Presented New Evidence of Iranian Lies'; Following Prime Minister Lapid's consultations with German chancellor Olaf Scholtz and other senior officials, a diplomatic source said Lapid is certain that European leaders are pessimistic regarding the outcome of nuclear talks with Iran. "Some say it is because of the hardening of the American position following discussions with Israeli officials," said the source, noting a similar change in attitude on the part of Iran. According to the source, Israel presented new evidence to the Europeans regarding the Iranian nuclear program. "We provided them with proof that the Iranians are lying as we speak." In addition, the source emphasized that the warming of relations between Russia and Iran and the fear that newly-imposed sanctions in wake of the Ukraine war, "will disappear with help from Russia", pushed Europe to harden its stance. In his opinion, the threat of Iranian attack drones being used by Russian troops in Ukraine also contributed to the change in sentiment. The source noted that Lapid believes that US President Biden is at the "right of the Democratic Party" and that the PA must do more to eradicate violence, especially in the Jenin and Shechem (Nablus) areas, "if it wants to be taken seriously."

Iran Says It Has Developed Drone 'Designed to Hit Israel's Tel Aviv, Haifa'; Iran's ground forces chief Brigadier General Kiomars Heidari said on Monday, September 12, that Tehran has developed an advanced long-range suicide drone "designed to hit Israel's Tel Aviv, Haifa," a semi-official Iranian news agency reported. Heidari said the drone, named Arash-2, is a newer version of Arash-1. Iran said on Monday it was ready to continue cooperating with the UN nuclear watchdog while revealing a drone capable of hitting major cities in Israel, which has threatened to attack Iranian nuclear sites if diplomacy fails to save a 2015 nuclear pact. Speaking after European powers expressed frustration with Tehran's intentions to salvage the agreement, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani urged the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) "not to yield to Israel's pressure" over Tehran's nuclear activities. On Saturday, September 10, France, Britain, and Germany said they had "serious doubts" about Iran's intentions to revive a deal curbing its nuclear program in return for a lifting of sanctions, comments that were rejected by Tehran and called "very untimely" by Moscow.

King Charles III: A Friend to UK Jewry, with Special and Historic Ties to Israel; With the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, the United Kingdom has a new king, Charles III, who at the age of 73 is the oldest person to ascend the British throne. Charles has long had a good relationship with British Jews, and in recent years has also shored up his bona fides with Israel. The royals have a deep historic connection to the Jewish state, with Britain ruling the land between 1920-1948. Charles himself has abiding ties to British Jewish leaders and institutions, and has shown a keen interest in the stories and lessons of the Holocaust. He has had warm meetings in recent years with two Israeli presidents and toured the country in a historic 2020 visit. In 2020, Charles conducted his first official visit to Israel, after previously making brief trips for the funerals of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. While in the country to attend the World Holocaust Forum, Charles met with then-president Rivlin and planted a tree at the President's Residence in Jerusalem. Charles met with a group of Holocaust survivors at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and toured the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit. He also attended a reception at the home of the British ambassador in Ramat Gan, where he was shown various Israeli scientific and medical innovations. Charles' grandmother,

Princess Alice of Battenberg, is buried at the Church of Mary Magdalene on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. During his trip, Charles visited her gravesite and has done so on private visits.

Germany is Israel's Most Important Ally After US, Says New Envoy in Berlin; Prime Minister Yair Lapid is traveling to Germany this week to emphasize the deep strategic and historical relationship between Israel and the largest country in the European Union, and will discuss the threat posed by Iran with German leaders, Israel's ambassador in Berlin, Ron Prosor, said on Sunday, September 11. "The trip of the prime minister, in essence, is saying, 'I traveled to Washington, I traveled to France, I traveled to the different countries of the Abraham Accords,'" Prosor told media by phone before Lapid took off for Germany. "I'm coming to Germany because this is the most substantial relationship we have in Europe." Prosor emphasized that "the relationship between Germany and Israel is a strategic relationship." "German-Israeli relations are the most intense strategic relationship that Israel has with Europe. After the United States of America, this is the most strategic relationship bilaterally that Israel has with any country," Prosor said. German's Foreign Office calls ties with Israel "a cornerstone of German foreign policy." Germany is Israel's top trading partner in Europe, and the long-standing quiet military and intelligence relationship is increasingly coming out into the open. Prosor highlighted that ex-chancellor Angela Merkel said the security of the state of Israel was central to Germany's national interest. "The new chancellor Scholz has repeated that and politicians from all sides of the political divide agree on that," he said.

U of Wisconsin Apologizes After 'Zionism Is Genocide' Graffiti Seen Around Campus; Administrators at the University of Wisconsin-Madison issued an apology to the school's Jewish students after graffiti targeting what perpetrators called "Zionist" student groups was spotted in multiple locations around campus, on the first day of the semester the previous week. University officials called the graffiti antisemitic and said they did not know who had drawn it. According to local reports and images shared by the American Jewish Committee, the graffiti at one location included phrases like "Zionism is Racism" and "Zionism is Genocide," and referenced unnamed "Zionist" organizations at the university that "have blood on their hands." "These labels are anti-Semitic: they attribute broad actions or beliefs to Jewish student groups," UW Vice Chancellor Lori Reesor and Chief Diversity Officer LaVar J. Charleston said in a joint statement Wednesday, September 7. "To those Jewish students and others affected, we are sorry for the impact this had on your first day of class at UW," Reesor and Charleston continued. "We truly strive to create a campus where every student feels they belong, and this kind of messaging harms that goal and aspiration."

Historic First: DeSantis to Require Teaching Hebrew Bible in Florida's Public Schools; In an August 27 speech at the Nashville Women's Conference, Laurie Cardoza-Moore from the Republican Party announced that she was working with Florida Governor Ron DeSantis to make his state the first to teach "the Hebrew Bible" a requirement in Civics in Florida public schools. "They will learn about the Hebrew Bible and the role it played in the founding of our nation," Cardoza-Moore explained. "They will learn about the Hebrew Bible and the role it played in the drafting of our founding documents. They will learn about the Hebrew Bible and the role it played in the structure of our form of government. Our nation was founded on the Torah." "Florida is the only state in the nation now that is teaching what God commands us to teach our children," she said. Moore is the head of Proclaiming Justice to the Nations, a Christian Zionist organization that battles anti-Semitism. A video of her statements was posted by a far-left organization, saying it posted the clip "to expose the agenda of the extreme right." The organization slammed her speech, describing Cardoza-Moore as a "Trump-loving, anti-Islam, religious-right activist who has recently begun to focus her efforts on ensuring that public school textbooks eliminate what she claims is anti-Semitic, anti-Judeo/Christian, Anti-American, pro-Islamic indoctrination of students."

Israel's First Cycling Tunnel Opens in Jerusalem; The Kerem Tunnel, the first bicycle tunnel in Israel, has been inaugurated as part of the Jerusalem Ring Path, a 42-kilometer cycling route that surrounds the capital city. The tunnel connects the path between Nahal Refaim and Emek Motza. Its southern entrance is in Refaim Park, below Ein Laban, and the northern entrance is located in Nahal Ein Kerem, about half a kilometer from the Kerem junction. The 2.1-kilometers-long tunnel project was inaugurated in a ceremony on Thursday, September 8, attended by Jerusalem and Heritage Minister Ze'ev Elkin, Mayor Moshe Lion, Gihon water company chairman Avi Baleshnikov and hundreds of cyclists. "In the past, Jerusalem was an attractive tourist city due to its glorious past. Today, apart from its historical treasures, it also incorporates modern tourism," Elkin said. "The inauguration of [this] tunnel project is another part of the development of the city of Jerusalem and its transformation into an attractive tourist city for all types of audiences in Israel and throughout the world."



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