

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update October 6, 2022 **(11th Tishrei, 5783)**



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Iran's Regime Kills 'at Least 92' in Brutal Crackdown of Nationwide Anti-Government Protests; At least '92 people' have been killed in a brutal crackdown of anti-government protests, sparked by the death of a young woman who was reportedly tortured in custody by Iranian police for not wearing a hijab properly. Mahsa Amini, 22, died in custody on September 16 after she was detained in Tehran by Iranian morality police who believed she was wearing her hijab too loosely. As protests stretched into a third week, the Iran Human Rights (IHR) group said at least 92 people had been killed. Clashes between protesters and security forces have rocked cities across the country for 16 nights in a row, after they first flared in western regions home to Amini and Iran's Kurdish minority. It comes as a further 41 people died in clashes on Friday, September 30, in Iran's far southeast, an area bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan, according to IHR. Those protests were sparked by accusations that a police chief in the region had raped a teenage girl (15 years old) of the Baluch Sunni minority. IHR has accused the security forces of the mainly Shiite country of 'bloodily repressing' the Zahedan protest that erupted after Friday prayers over these accusations. Solidarity rallies with Iranian women - who have defiantly burnt the hijabs they have been obliged to wear since the 1979 Islamic revolution - have also been held worldwide, with demonstrations in more than 150 cities.

Iran's Supreme Leader Blames Israel, US in First Public Comment on Protests; Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei responded publicly on Monday, October 3, to the biggest protests in Iran in years, breaking weeks of silence to condemn what he called "rioting", and accuse the US and Israel of planning the protests. Khamenei said he was "heartbroken" by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in the custody of Iran's morality police, which set off the nationwide protests, calling her death a "sad incident." However, he sharply condemned the protests as a foreign plot to destabilize Iran, echoing authorities' previous comments. "This rioting was planned," he told a cadre of police students in Tehran. "These riots and insecurities were designed by America and the Zionist regime, and their employees." He described scenes of protesters ripping off their state-mandated headscarves and setting fire to mosques,

banks and police cars as “not normal” and “unnatural.” His comments come as nationwide protests sparked by Amini’s death entered the third week despite the government’s efforts to crack down.

Official: Lebanon Deal Will See Unprecedented Approval for Israel’s Maritime Border; The impending agreement on Israel’s maritime border with Lebanon is a victory for Israel’s security, a senior Israeli official argued Sunday evening, October 2. “The security interests of Israel are anchored in the agreement,” said the official, pointing at the Israeli line of maritime buoys extending five kilometers (some three miles), into the Mediterranean from Rosh Hanikra. “The line of buoys is an important Israeli security line that was never approved by any outside actor,” said the official during a phone briefing with Israeli reporters. “This will allow Israel to treat it as its northern territorial border.” Israel deployed the floats after the May 2000 withdrawal from Lebanon. The boundary marked the limits of where Israel unilaterally operates with full freedom of action. The line will be the northern limit of Israeli waters for the first five kilometers from the coast, after which the border will follow the southern edge of the disputed area, known as Line 23. The agreement also serves the economic interests of the Lebanese, who will enjoy economic rights in the area bordered by Line 23 in the south.

'Maritime Deal Gives 100% to Lebanon, 0% to Israel'; Former US ambassador to Israel David Friedman lambasted the emerging maritime border deal between Israel and Lebanon, claiming it marks a complete capitulation of Israel’s interests in favor of Lebanon’s. In a series of tweets Monday morning, October 3, the former Trump administration official said that prior to Biden’s election, the White House nearly brokered a more equitable deal. “We spent years trying to broker a deal between Israel and Lebanon on the disputed maritime gas fields. Got very close with proposed splits of 55-60% for Lebanon and 45-40% for Israel. No one then imagined 100% to Lebanon and 0% to Israel. Would love to understand how we got here.” “I could be wrong, but I think Israel does get zero. My understanding is that Israel gets royalties only on drilling within its own sovereign territory — that’s beyond the scope of the maritime dispute with Lebanon. As to the disputed territory, I understand Lebanon gets it all.” On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid alluded to Israeli concessions, “Over the weekend, Israel and Lebanon received the American mediator’s proposal for an agreement on a maritime line between the two countries. We are discussing the final details, so it is not yet possible to praise a done deal; however, as we have demanded from the start, the proposal safeguards Israel’s full security-diplomatic interests, as well as our economic interests.” Lapid argued that ceding natural gas reserves to Lebanon would help the country become independent of Tehran, and ultimately curb the strength of groups like Hezbollah. Right-wing lawmakers blasted the planned concessions, however, with Opposition Leader Benjamin Netanyahu calling any deal during the government’s lame duck session “illegal”.

Israel Approves NIS 90 Million for Absorbing Immigrants from Russia, amid Ukraine War; The government on Sunday, October 2, approved a NIS 90 million (over \$25 million) budget for absorbing Russian Jewish immigrants arriving in Israel, amid Russia’s ongoing invasion of Ukraine. The approved funds will go toward providing additional housing solutions for immigrants, employment assimilation, education, health services, and other basic requirements to aid those who arrive in haste and with little to no preparation. Israeli officials have also indicated their intention to bolster the number of flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv, as well as to find ways to facilitate the transfer of assets out of Russia. According to data from Ministry of Aliyah and Immigration Absorption, some 24,000 Jewish immigrants have moved to Israel since Russia launched the war in Ukraine on February 24, the most significant wave of immigration from there, since hundreds of thousands of people moved to the Jewish state as the Soviet Union collapsed over 30 years ago. The ministry believes many additional immigrants are due to arrive in the coming months, partly due to Russia’s “partial mobilization” of reservists, as its military faces setbacks in Ukraine.

Booking.com Will Remove Warning on Israeli Listings; Following a discreet exchange held by Israel's Foreign Ministry and Tourism Minister with the management of Booking.com, the site has removed the threat of discrimination against Israeli-owned businesses in Judea and Samaria. Last month, media reported a decision by Booking.com to begin marking almost all Jewish-owned accommodations in Judea and Samaria with a travel warning. Under the decision, the application would warn users who plan to go to tourism businesses in Judea and Samaria that "a visit to the area may be accompanied by an increased risk to safety and human rights or other risks to the local community and guests." The decision came under fire from both government and opposition sources, and on Saturday, October 1, it was reversed. Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid praised the reversal, saying, "We thank Booking for changing its decision. The State of Israel today has achieved an important achievement in the fight against delegitimization."

Lapid Sends 'Thoughts and Prayers' to Florida, as Hurricane Aims at Carolinas; Prime Minister Yair Lapid extended his support to the people of Florida on Friday, September 30, after Hurricane Ian left a trail of destruction as it passed through the southern US state, and began to make its way to South Carolina. "The thoughts and prayers of all Israelis are with the people of Florida, and all those who remain in the path of this devastating storm," Lapid tweeted. "Sending strength to my friends President Joe Biden and Governor Ron De Santis, and all those involved in responding to this tragedy." At least six people have been killed in Florida since the monstrous Category 4 hurricane came ashore on Florida's Gulf Coast Wednesday, flooding cities, blowing down power lines, cutting electricity to millions and dumping catastrophic amounts of rain on the state before moving back offshore. Climate change added at least 10% more rain to Hurricane Ian, according to a study prepared immediately after the storm, said its co-author, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab climate scientist Michael Wehner. Biden has said it could be the deadliest hurricane in Florida's history. Tens of thousands of Israelis are thought to live in Florida, which is also home to one of the largest Jewish communities in the US.

Israeli Nanotech May Be Able to Reduce Side-Effects of Chemotherapy, Scientists Say; Scientists say that new Israeli technology could dramatically reduce the side effects of cancer treatments, including chemotherapy, by making precision dosing possible for drugs that are currently administered to the whole body. The invention could also revive numerous treatments that are today considered unsafe, and enable doctors to increase doses of some existing medicines, the team from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology suggests in a newly peer-reviewed research. The main focus of the study – and the sole topic of the Technion team's animal study – is inhibitors, which are drugs that block the growth factors that trigger cancer cells. But a small number of chemotherapies was included in the lab testing and showed promise, the team said, indicating that the technology may also one day be used to reduce chemotherapy side effects. Precision medicines are considered a promising way to treat cancer, but a major challenge is the technology required to deliver medicine to cancerous cells without taking it to other parts of the body. Particles called nano-carriers — also a key ingredient of most coronavirus vaccines — do the job well. But each nano-carrier is compatible with a limited range of drugs, and only a few dozen are available, meaning the vast majority of drugs can't be given as precision medicine. "The new nano-carrier actually enabled us to successfully treat mice with a medicine that normally can't be used due to its intense side effects," Prof. Yosi Shamay, head of the lab that conducted the research, told Israeli media.

Palestinians, Police Scuffle as Jews Visit Temple Mount on Rosh Hashanah; 4 Arrested; Palestinians scuffled with police in Jerusalem's Old City Monday morning, September 26, as Jewish visitors toured the flashpoint Temple Mount to mark the Jewish New Year. According to police, a group of young Palestinians barricaded themselves overnight in the Temple Mount's Al-Aqsa Mosque and began launching fireworks from within as the Rosh Hashanah visits began. A video released by the police appeared to show fireworks being shot from an alcove above a door to the mosque, which a spokesman for

the force accused the Palestinians of “desecrating.” Police later put out further footage showing rocks being hurled from a door to the mosque and several masked suspects emerging to throw stones, before retreating back inside. Clashes also took place around the nearby Lion’s Gate to the Old City, with police saying rioters threw rocks at officers. At least four people were arrested. “The visits [by Jews] to the Temple Mount are taking place alongside Muslim prayers as usual,” police spokesman Eli Levi said. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Only 36% of Israelis Believe Next Gov’t Should Push Two-State Solution; Just 36% of Israelis either “strongly” or “somewhat” agree that the government formed after the election should try to advance a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, according to the Israel Democracy Institute’s Voice of Israel Index for the month of September. Among Jewish Israelis, that number is just 31%, while among Arab Israelis it is 60%, the survey found. The numbers among both Jews and Arabs went down from a similar survey in February 2021, when 50% of Israelis believed that the government should try to advance the two-state solution – 44% Jewish and 79% Arab. The data was published a day after Prime Minister Yair Lapid claimed in his speech at the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday, September 22, that most Israelis supported the two-state solution. The current survey shows that a strong majority believes that this is not relevant for the next government. The survey also asked Israelis whether the country should carry out a military attack against Iran’s nuclear facilities even without American agreement, with almost half (49%) answering that they “strongly” or “somewhat” agreed that Israel should do so. This includes 55% of Jewish Israelis and 17% of Arab Israelis, the survey found.

Iran Says US Trying to Violate Sovereignty over Unrest, Warns of Response; The US attempts to violate Iran's sovereignty over the issue of protests triggered by the death of a woman in police custody will not go unanswered, the foreign ministry said on Monday, September 26. Iran has been rocked by nationwide demonstrations sparked by the death of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini after she was detained by morality police enforcing the Islamic Republic's strict restrictions on women's dress. The case has drawn international condemnation. Iran has said the United States was supporting rioters and seeking to destabilize the Islamic Republic. On his Instagram page, Kanaani accused the leaders of the United States and some European countries of abusing a tragic incident in support of the "rioters" and ignoring "the presence of millions of people in the streets and squares of the country in support of the system." Iran has also blamed armed Iranian Kurdish dissidents for involvement in the ongoing unrest in the country, particularly in the northwest where most of Iran's up to 10 million Kurds live.

Iran Indicts 14 over Killing of its Top Nuclear Scientist Blamed on Israel; Fourteen people have been indicted in connection with their alleged roles in the 2020 killing of a top nuclear scientist, in an attack that Tehran has blamed on Israel, an Iranian state news agency said Monday, September 26. According to the report by Islamic media, the 14 were charged on a number of counts, including “corruption on earth, contribution to intelligence and espionage for the Zionist regime, collusion aimed at disrupting Iran’s security, and endangering the Islamic country’s security.” There were no details given on the identity of 12 of the 14 people, including their nationalities. Iran frequently arrests, jails, and executes individuals it accuses of spying for foreign nations, without offering proof. Iran has blamed Israel for killing its top nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, with a remote-controlled machine gun while he was traveling in a car outside Tehran. Fakhrizadeh, identified by Israel as the father of Iran’s rogue nuclear weapons program, was assassinated in the sophisticated hit reportedly led by a Mossad team. Iran has threatened revenge for the killing. Israel has not publicly commented on the allegation that it was responsible, though former Mossad chief Yossi Cohen confirmed last year that Fakhrizadeh was long in the spy agency’s sights.

13 Killed, 21 Injured as Gunman Wearing ‘Nazi Symbols’ Opens Fire at Russian School; A gunman opened fire in a school in central Russia Monday, September 26, killing 13 people, including seven children, and wounding 21 others. Russia’s Investigative Committee said the shooting took place in School No. 88 in Izhevsk, a city about 960 kilometers (600 miles) east of Moscow in the Udmurtia region. It identified the wounded as 14 children and seven adults. The governor of Udmurtia, Alexander Brechalov, said in a video statement that the gunman shot himself. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov described the shooting as “a terrorist act” and said that Russian President Vladimir Putin has given all the necessary orders to the relevant authorities. “President Putin deeply mourns deaths of people and children in the school, where a terrorist act took place,” Peskov told reporters on Monday.

Israel Rejects Annexation Votes in Occupied Ukraine as Russian Proxies Claim Victory; Officials in three Moscow-occupied regions of Ukraine on Tuesday, September 27, claimed victory in referendums for a merger with Russia amid international condemnation of sham ballots. The local poll body in the southern Zaporizhzhia region said 93.11% of voters opted for Russian annexation after all the ballots were counted. In Kherson, also in the south, authorities said 87.05% of voters opted for Russian annexation after a vote count was completed. In the eastern Lugansk region controlled by pro-Russia separatists, 98.42% opted for annexation by Russia, Russian news agencies said, citing local authorities. Ukraine and its allies have denounced the so-called referendums as a sham and said the West would never recognize the results of the ballots that have dramatically ratcheted up the stakes of Russia’s seven-month invasion. On Tuesday, Israel joined their ranks, with the Foreign Ministry saying in a statement that Jerusalem “recognizes the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, and will not recognize the results of the referendums in its eastern districts.” Israel’s clear rejection of the votes could further raise tensions with Moscow. Jerusalem has sought to maintain cordial relations with Russia despite criticizing the invasion of Ukraine, both due to Russia’s control of Syrian airspace and its large Jewish community.

Italy’s Meloni Portrays Herself as Strong Supporter of Israel, Rejects Fascist Past; Italy’s Giorgia Meloni, who is on track to become the country’s first far-right leader since Mussolini in World War II, has long tried to distance herself from her party’s fascist past and indicated she would be a strong supporter of Israel, even boasting of ties to the Likud party. Meloni’s “Brothers of Italy” came top in Sunday’s general elections (September 25), winning some 26 percent of the vote, and her right-wing coalition looks set to secure a majority in both houses of parliament. There was no immediate reaction from Israel, with results coming as the country celebrated the Jewish New Year. But Israel has in the past sought to boycott far-right European parties that have come to power — as it did with Austria’s Freedom Party, which was founded by former Nazis. Brothers of Italy, which Meloni founded in 2012, is a political descendant of the Italian Social Movement (MSI), formed by supporters of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini after World War II. Soaring in popularity — up from just 4% four years ago — the party uses a symbol featuring a tri-colored flame that had been an icon of MSI. Brothers of Italy is headquartered at the same address, on Via della Scrofa in central Rome, where MSI set up its offices in 1946, media reported. Both the US and EU on Monday indicated a willingness to work with Meloni, but cautioned against any possible human rights abuses in Italy. “We have handed fascism over to history for decades now, firmly condemning the loss of democracy, the outrageous anti-Jewish laws, and the tragedy of World War II,” Meloni said in a recent interview with an Israeli newspaper.

Controversial Muslim Brotherhood Spiritual Leader Dies in Qatar; Senior Muslim cleric Sheikh Youssef al-Qaradawi, who was based in Qatar and was a spiritual leader for the Muslim Brotherhood, died on Monday, September 26, according to a post on his official Twitter account. The Egyptian-born cleric, who was in his 90s, was highly critical of Egypt’s President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi. Considered a respected Muslim scholar and ideologue, al-Qaradawi pushed for Islamic modernism, which aims to reconcile the faith with Western ideas and values such as democracy, equality, and civil rights. He was also considered

by many to be moderate in Islamist circles of thought and has come out in favor of democracy, donating blood for victims of the September 11 attacks, protecting rape victims, and banning honor killings, among other issues. However, he has also garnered some hostility from the West in the past for statements condoning Palestinian suicide attacks on Israeli citizens, according to the BBC. In a 2004 interview, the cleric said that he does not consider an Israeli woman to be "like women in our societies, because she is a soldier." "I consider this type of martyrdom operation as evidence of God's justice," he reportedly continued. "Allah has given the weak a weapon the strong do not have...the ability to turn their bodies into bombs as Palestinians do."



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