

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update October 13, 2022 (18th Tishrei, 5783)



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Ambassador Erdan: How Can You Negotiate with a Regime that Murdered a Young Woman?
Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, on Friday, October 7, demanded answers on how the international community can negotiate a nuclear deal with the regime in Iran. "How can you negotiate a nuclear deal that expires in only a couple of years? A deal that will funnel hundreds of millions of dollars into the coffers of a murderous regime?" he wondered. "Can you truly believe the commitments made by a totalitarian government that murdered a young woman, Mahsa Amini, for not properly wearing a head covering, and then butchered those who protest such brutality?" "How do you trust the Ayatollahs, whose attack drones are, as we speak, flying in the skies of Europe? How can any of you desire a deal that would permit the world's number one state sponsor of terror to continue with its intercontinental ballistic missile program?" asked Erdan. His comments come amid the continued protests in Iran after the death of Mahsa Amini following her arrest for wearing her hijab improperly. The crackdown by the security forces on the protests has claimed 185 lives including at least 19 children, according to human rights groups. Meanwhile, the indirect talks between the US and Iran on a return to the 2015 nuclear deal remain stalled. Iran recently announced it had submitted its comments to the US response to the European Union's draft for reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Canada to Permanently Deny Entry to 10,000 Members of 'Murderous' Iranian Regime; Canada announced Friday, October 7, that it will permanently deny entry to more than 10,000 members of Iran's "murderous" regime, including members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which Ottawa blames for "heinous" acts against the Iranian people. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he would list Iran under "the most powerful provision" of Canada's immigration and refugee act to make "over 10,000 [IRGC] officers and senior members most responsible for this heinous state behavior inadmissible to Canada." "This is the strongest measure we have to go after states and state entities," he said, noting it was previously applied only against regimes for war crimes or genocide. Those listed "will be inadmissible to Canada forever" and will be prevented from holding assets or having any financial dealings in this country,

he said. Thousands of Canadians have marched in the streets in recent weeks in solidarity with Iran's protests sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini, while in the custody of Iran's notorious morality police.

NY Governor Hochul Blasted for Photos with Dem Donor, who Called Jews 'satanic'; New York Governor Kathy Hochul was slammed by critics for taking several photos with a Democratic donor who has shared anti-Semitic and Holocaust denial content online. Hochul, who is running for reelection, was at a Harvard Club fundraiser in New York City in September, where she took several photos with Maher Abdelqader, vice president of AI Engineers in New York and a Democratic Party donor, American media reported. According to the news outlet, Abdelqader is "an activist who has propagated anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, such as sharing a video claiming that Jews are 'satanic' and controlling the media, and that questions whether 6 million Jews died in the Holocaust." Abdelqader also promoted in social media posts the discredited allegation that Jews are not actually from Israel and used his Facebook account to encourage support for the BDS movement. "A great fundraiser by a small group of entrepreneurs and business leaders at the prestigious Harvard Club of NYC for NYS Governor Kathleen Hochul," Abdelqader wrote in a since-deleted tweet. Hochul's actions were slammed by the Republican Governors Association (RGA).

Jordan Peterson: 'The Fate of the World Depends on Israel'; Dr. Jordan Peterson, the Canadian psychologist, and owner of one of the most listened-to podcasts in the world said Thursday, October 6, while he tearfully pleaded with those present in the International Convention Center in Jerusalem to protect the holy city. Peterson said: "As Jews in Israel, are you telling the greatest story ever told? Well, you decide that by how you live. And what you do will affect the world - for one reason or another, it's not so easy to understand, everyone looks here to see, well, how are you actually doing, under this tremendous assault of adversarial criticism, as this little, tiny people in the middle of no man's land in some real sense, as a -what would you say - cardinal model of the nation-state and the city on the hill." "You have a tremendous moral responsibility, like you have, perhaps, for your entire history, for reasons that are very difficult to understand, and I think it is true, in some real sense, that the fate of the world depends on the decisions of the people of Israel. Just as the fate of the world depends on the decision of every individual, so you make yourself a shining light on the hill, right? You attract people here because of what you're capable of doing. You show the world what the holy city could look like. Because we need it. We need it, and it's up to you to do it. Thank you very much." Ben Shapiro, the well-known American political commentator, and the owner of an American media body explained that in his eyes, Jerusalem, chosen especially by the two as the place where they will appear when they arrive together in Israel, is a global moral compass. "We have returned to an era in which divine rule does not come from above, not through laws, not through logic and not even through providing a sufficient explanation, but through force alone. When chaos ruled everything."

Israel Rejects Lebanese Changes to Maritime Border Proposal, Putting Deal in Doubt; Prime Minister Yair Lapid rejected on Thursday, October 6, Lebanon's requested modifications to a proposed maritime border deal, according to a senior Israeli official. Contradicting earlier assertions by Western officials that Lebanon's objections were minor, the official called Beirut's demands "significant." The statement cast doubt on the viability of a deal that, only days ago, Israeli officials were speaking of as a foregone conclusion. Lapid also emphasized that he would not compromise on Israel's economic and security interests, even if it meant that there would be no deal in the near term, according to the official. The official also warned the Lebanon-based Hezbollah terror group against trying to strike the Karish offshore gas field or threaten Israel, saying the talks would "end permanently, and [the terror group's leader] Hassan Nasrallah will have to explain to Lebanese civilians why they don't have gas rigs or an economic future."

Church of England, British Catholic Church Opposes Moving UK Embassy to Jerusalem; Two of the UK's most senior Christian authorities have recently come out against the potential decision of Prime Minister Liz Truss to move the British Embassy to the State of Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. In a letter sent to the prime minister, one of the UK's leading Roman Catholic Church authorities, Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Vincent Nichols has called on Truss to not move the British Embassy to the State of Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Furthermore, Cardinal Nichols, who serves as the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England, in a statement shared both on his official website, as well as on his Twitter account, stated that "such a relocation of the UK Embassy would be seriously damaging to any possibility of lasting peace in the region and to the international reputation of the United Kingdom." Following Cardinal Nichols' lead, the head of the Church of England, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby also expressed his concerns over the potential move, with his spokesperson addressing the subject in a statement to a UK Jewish newspaper on Friday, October 7. Responding to the Cardinal's statement, International Human Rights Lawyer Arsen Ostrovsky tagged Nichols, saying: "Dear Cardinal, I suggest you read over scriptures, what they say about Jerusalem. You might then care to reconsider your opinion." The Israel-Britain Alliance also issued a statement regarding these comments, saying that while they have "respect for all clergy, interventions like this reveal a fundamental political naivety. Sovereign states naming their own capital is normal. When did normal become a bad idea?" Truss herself has mentioned earlier that she is a "huge Zionist and huge supporter of Israel," adding that she would "take the UK-Israel relationship from strength to strength."

Turkey Names Former Jerusalem Envoy as New Ambassador to Israel; Turkey appointed Sakir Ozkan Torunlar as its new ambassador to Israel late on Wednesday, October 5, following a mutual decision taken last month to restore full diplomatic ties, two Turkish foreign ministry officials said. Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu briefed Torunlar on Wednesday night as part of the ministry's new appointments abroad, the officials told Reuters. A career diplomat with decades of experience, Torunlar was Turkish Consul General in Jerusalem from 2010 until 2013. Israel has already named Irit Lillian as its next ambassador to Ankara. Relations between Turkey and Israel have been rocky since 2011 when Ankara expelled Israel's ambassador following a 2010 Israeli raid on the Mavi Marmara aid ship to Gaza, which killed nine Turkish citizens. The latest developments come five months after Israeli President Isaac Herzog visited Ankara as part of his first visit to Turkey by an Israeli leader since 2008.

Israel's Central Bank Chief Says It's 'Unlikely' Country Will See Recession; Israel's aggressive interest rate hiking cycle aimed at lowering inflation was at a "well advanced" stage, Bank of Israel Governor Amir Yaron said, with price pressures starting to ease and inflation hopefully moving back into its target range next year. Israel will likely avoid a recession, Yaron said, and growth will be stronger than the United States and Europe. Analysts increasingly think the euro zone economy will contract this winter. The central bank has raised its benchmark interest rate ILINR=ECI five times since April to a decade high of 2.75% from 0.1% -- the last two moves in late August and this past Monday being 75 basis points. Bank of Israel economists forecast 4.6% inflation in 2022 and moving to 2.5% in 2023. Yaron said most of the reduction will be in the second half of the second quarter and into the summer. "It takes a while for these things to take effect, but we believe this is the right magnitude (of rates) for the Israeli economy right now," he said.

Tens of Thousands Visited Western Wall for Final 'Selichot' Services Before Yom Kippur; Tens of thousands of people visited Jerusalem's Western Wall overnight on Monday, October 3, for the final penitential "selichot" prayer services ahead of the Yom Kippur holiday, which began Tuesday evening. The "selichot" service, a litany of penitential and supplicant prayers, is held nightly in the period before the Day of Atonement. Sephardi Jews recite it beginning a month before Rosh Hashanah, while Ashkenazi Jews start the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah. According to the Western Wall Heritage Foundation,

which administers the holy site, pilgrims have paid more than 1 million visits to the Western Wall during this six-week period. Monday night's service, which was held at the main plaza of the Western Wall, was led by a professional cantor. Israel's two chief rabbis — the Ashkenazi Rabbi David Lau and Sephardi Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef — presided over the service, along with Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion and Western Wall Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovitch. "In this unifying moment, let us pray for peace between one another. Let us pray that we always succeed in seeing the good of our comrades and not what they lack, let us pray that we be connected to one another and joined to one another in unity, fraternity and love," Rabinovitch said in an opening sermon.

Hamas Leader: Palestine Will Not Be Liberated Through Fake Peace, Only Through Jihad; Senior Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal said on Monday, October 3, that there is no point in negotiating with Israel on any sort of arrangement, since the path of jihad is what will lead to the "conquest of Palestine." In a speech marking the 835th anniversary of the conquest of Jerusalem by Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi, Mashaal said that Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque are the goals of the awakening of the Islamic nation. "The conquest (of Palestine) will only be achieved through jihad, resistance and martyrs", he stated, adding that "the way of the conquest will not be through negotiations, since Jerusalem will not be returned through fake peace agreements with the enemy, or through normalization whose purpose is to mislead the nation and turn the first enemy into an ally in the area." "Israel is our first and most dangerous enemy towards Palestine and the region," Mashaal emphasized, noting that "the West Bank is now burning under the feet of the occupying invaders and is in a jihadist fight. "In this campaign, Mashaal said, the Israeli Arabs and the Palestinian Arabs in the diaspora are part of the fight, while at the same time, the hands of the Gaza Strip are on the trigger. "We want Arab and Muslim blood to bleed on the land of Palestine. When you see Palestinian blood mixing with Arab and Muslim blood, know that we are on the verge of liberation (of Palestine)," added Mashaal.

Iran Schoolgirls Remove Hijabs in Protests Against Government; Schoolgirls in Iran have been waving their headscarves in the air and chanting against clerical authorities, in an unprecedented show of support for the protests engulfing the country. Videos verified by British media showed demonstrations inside schoolyards and on the streets of several cities. They echoed the wider unrest sparked by the death of a woman last month, who was detained for breaking the hijab law. In Karaj, girls reportedly forced an education official out of their school. Footage posted on social media on Monday, October 3, showed them shouting "shame on you" and throwing what appear to be empty water bottles at the man until he retreats through a gate. In another video from Karaj, which is just to the west of the capital Tehran, students are heard shouting: "If we don't unite, they will kill us one by one." In the southern city of Shiraz on Monday, dozens of schoolgirls blocked traffic on a main road while waving their headscarves in the air and shouting "death to the dictator" - a reference to the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters.

Why Iranians' Bid for Freedom Is Also Our Fight – Opinion; Iran's budding revolution went global this weekend as protesters took their fight to the streets of our western capitals, living testimonies of the growing public support Iranians have mobilized as they continue to call for freedom. The governments of the West have, so far, been absent from the party, hiding behind empty declarations of solidarity. In the absence of tangible actions, they equate to no more than whispers against the brutality of a regime which has already claimed dozens of lives and imprisoned over a thousand intellectuals, artists and social media influencers in a few short weeks. The West may soon learn that its apathy may cost its institutions dearly. If the Islamic Republic claims supremacy within the confines of its borders, its agencies have long exported its ideology, its outposts and networks of influence peppered across our capitals – the symbols of a will to rewrite our democracies to the mad ambitions of its mullahs. Unless the West comes to terms with the lenticular reach of the ayatollahs, we may soon find ourselves the unwanted hostages of dynamics

threatening not only the integrity of our state institutions, but of our very national security. For we have ignored the writing on the wall, thinking ourselves immune to Tehran's influence – whether by arrogance or sheer political naivety. We have allowed our capitals to become instrumental in exporting Khomeini's ideology; the regime's men are left free to exploit our laws and institutions to pervert our spaces, with all the risks that entail.

Buses in Judea and Samaria to Be Bulletproofed; Following an expose by Israeli media, a budget will be transferred to bulletproof buses in Judea and Samaria. The 15 million shekels will be transferred following a demand by MK Orit Strock (Religious Zionism). The additional funds were approved by the Knesset's Finance Committee. In September, it was reported that the Electra Afikim bus company, which operates buses throughout Judea and Samaria, told the Kiryat Arba-Hebron council that it would cancel all trips to the area, due to a significant lack of bulletproof vehicles after a number of vehicles were damaged by terror activities. Responding to the passage of the budget, Strock told the Israeli media outlet, "The delay in the budgets for bulletproofing buses, at the height of a terror wave, is loud, clear, abandonment. This government abandons the residents of Judea and Samaria twice: By abandoning the land to terrorists, and by preventing the protection of civilians." "It's unthinkable that we can't find a single source in the coalition for whom this issue is important enough, and that we need my involvement and that of the opposition in order to free up such a critical and basic budget."

Study Finds 45% of French Jews Ask Their Kids to Hide Identity; A new study has found that nearly half of French Jews worry about their children's safety enough to ask them to hide their Jewish identity outside of the home. The study by Jewish People's Political Institute (JPPI) found that 45 percent of French Jews prefer that their children not reveal in public that they are Jewish, and a corresponding increase in worldwide antisemitism, particularly in France and Germany. The survey found that 20 percent of French Jews were the victims of an anti-Semitic physical assault, while 37 percent said they frequently or regularly felt unsafe as a Jew living in France. Given the results of the study, the JPPI urged the Israeli government to combat the resurgence of antisemitism by strengthening the relationship between Israel and Diaspora Jews and to work to combat antisemitism worldwide.

Israel Cutting Back on Feeding Migrating Pelicans to Keep New Bird Flu Outbreak Away; Pelicans migrate via Israel each summer to reach wintering grounds in Africa, normally starting to arrive in mid-August. They do not stay long before flying off to the Sinai Desert and continuing down the Nile to reach their winter ponds. The Israel Nature and Parks Authority has stopped feeding migrating pelicans in the north of Israel this year, to reduce the chances of bird flu decimating concentrated flocks. In December 2021, an outbreak of avian flu in the poultry industry spread to wild birds, a first. Among the victims were some of around 500 pelicans that had arrived toward the end of the pelican migration season, and had stopped in the Beit Shean area south of the Sea of Galilee. Authorities believe that feeding programs designed to keep the pelicans and other birds away from agricultural fields and fish farms wound up concentrating them in a way that made it easy for one bird to infect another. Experts note that the exact way in which bird flu spread so rapidly among wild birds is not yet fully understood.

Dozens of Pure Gold Coins Discovered in Secret Cache Dating from Muslim Conquest; Forty-four pure gold coins were recently found hidden in a wall, during excavations at the Baniyas archaeological site within the Hermon River Nature Reserve in the north of the country, the Israel Antiquities Authority said Monday, October 3. The hoard, weighing about 170 grams, was found stashed within the base of an ashlar stone wall. Archaeologists assessed that the treasure was hidden by its owner during the Muslim Conquest of the area in 635 CE. "The discovery reflects a specific moment in time, when we can imagine the owner concealing his fortune in the threat of war, hoping to return one day to retrieve his property," excavation director Yoav Lerer said in a statement. "In retrospect, we know that he was less fortunate."

“The discovery of the coin hoard may also shed light on the economy of the city of Baniyas during the last 40 years of Byzantine rule,” Lerer said. Some of the coins were identified as being minted by Emperor Phocas (602–610 CE), and others by Emperor Heraclius (610–641 CE). The latest of the Heraclius coins were dated to the time of the Muslim Conquest. Israel Antiquities Authority coin expert Gabriela Bijovsky said the Emperor Heraclius coins are of particular interest because they depict a time-lapse record of his family. “In his early years as emperor, only his portrait was depicted on the coin, whereas after a short time, the images of his sons also appear,” she explained. “One can actually follow his sons growing up – from childhood until their image appears the same size as their father, who is depicted with a long beard.”



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