

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update December 1, 2022 ***(7th Kislev, 5783)***



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Iran Publishes List of 'Sensitive' Sites in Israel, to Strike in Future War; Under the guise of reporting on what a Beirut-based media outlet recently discussed, media close to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps appeared to publish a list of “sensitive” sites that it believes could be targeted in a future war. The report lists a variety of buildings and sites in Israel in a clearly intended threat to the Jewish state. Iranian media wrote on Monday, November 28, that a Beirut-based network has published a report on the analysis of Israel's target bank and the sensitive positions of this regime that can be targeted in any war. “At the beginning of this report, the general situation of the Zionist regime at the military level and its equipment has been examined.” The article then includes a list of sites in Israel. This includes the Knesset, the Prime Minister’s Office, the Defense Ministry, and a series of other sites. This includes what the Iranian outlet characterizes as “nuclear sites and facilities.” In the list of “warehouses” and facilities, the report includes a Rafael Advanced Defense Systems site in Haifa and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, as well as the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. Then, the report examines “airports and military and intelligence bases.” It mentions “civilian” airports such as Ben-Gurion International Airport, and the Ramon airport near Eilat. Then it lists a number of military bases. The report clearly lists civilian areas, institutions and facilities that Iran believes are sensitive to Israel in terms of civilian and military research, and the military-industrial complex. This appears to be one of the few times that Iranian media close to the regime have so openly published what they claim is a target list of Israeli sites that could be targeted in a future war – and what Iran and its proxies are thinking these days regarding their potential targeting priorities in Israel.

Israel Shared Intelligence Dossiers on Iranian Arms Exports to Russia; Israel has transferred intelligence dossiers to dozens of countries and international organizations regarding Iranian arms exports to Russia in recent weeks, with the goal of mobilizing more countries in the world to exert pressure on the regime in Tehran, senior officials at the Foreign Ministry said. The officials said that on October 20, a secret telegram was sent from the strategic wing of the ministry to dozens of Israeli embassies around the world, with a request to start a diplomatic campaign against arms transfers from Iran to Russia. In the

telegram, Israeli diplomats were asked to contact the senior ranks of the countries where they were stationed, to raise the issue of the transfer of Iranian UAVs to Russia and the fear of transfer of ballistic missiles from, and to try to obtain more information on the subject. In the weeks since then, Israeli diplomats have conveyed these messages to the relevant government ministries and the political echelon in dozens of countries while providing them with said intelligence. For example, senior officials at the Foreign Ministry said that Israeli Ambassador to the European Union and NATO, Haim Regev, handed the intelligence dossier to the Deputy Secretary General of NATO. Two weeks ago, Israel's ambassador to Moscow, Alex Ben-Zvi, even raised the issue of the supply of Iranian weapons in a meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Bogdanov, senior officials at the Foreign Ministry said.

IRGC Officer Killed by Roadside Bomb in Syria; Iran Blames Israel, Vows Revenge; Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps blamed Israel on Wednesday, November 23, for the killing of a senior aerospace officer near Damascus, and vowed to avenge the death. Colonel Davoud Jafari, an adviser from the IRGC's aerospace division, was "martyred by the Zionist agents with a roadside bomb" near the Syrian capital overnight, the Corps said in a statement. The statement warned that Israel will answer for the "crime." The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor with questionable veracity and unclear funding, said Jafari was a drone and air defense expert. The group claimed that he was killed along with his Syrian guard when a roadside bomb struck their car in the southern Damascus suburb of Sayyida Zeinab. The bodyguard was killed instantly, while Jafari was taken to a nearby hospital and succumbed to his wounds shortly afterward, said the Observatory's chief Rami Abdurrahman. An official with an Iran-backed group, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was speaking about security affairs in Syria, said the bomb was planted to release the pressure in the direction of the car. Iran has been a major supporter of Syrian President Bashar Assad during the country's 11-year civil war and has sent thousands of Iran-backed fighters from around the region to fight alongside his forces.

Forces Drill for Massive Chemical Terror Attack on New Tel Aviv Light Rail; Israeli authorities held a large-scale drill at the soon-to-open Tel Aviv light rail on Tuesday night, November 22, simulating a chemical terror attack and creating real-world traffic headaches. The joint drill held by the Defense Ministry, military, police, fire services, Health Ministry, and Tel Aviv municipality, involved over 1,000 members of security and emergency forces and several hundred extras simulating victims at various degrees of injuries. According to the Defense Ministry, the drill took place at three main points along the new light rail system — in Tel Aviv, Bat Yam, and Ramat Gan — at both above-ground and underground stations. The main part of the exercise took place at the underground Allenby station in Tel Aviv, the ministry said. Aside from a simulated chemical substance being spread on platforms and trains, the forces also practiced responding to shooting and bombing attacks. Dozens of foreign observers also arrived to watch the drill "as part of international learning and cooperation processes," the ministry said. The ministry also explained that the drill was preplanned, meaning, it did not stem from a new assessment or threat.

One Quarter of Hiring Managers Less Likely to Hire Jews, Poll Finds; A new survey found that one in 4 hiring managers discriminate against Jewish applicants, according to an American job recruitment firm. The top reason listed in the ResumeBuilder survey is the anti-Semitic trope that Jews have too much "power and control." The survey also found that 1 out of 6 hiring managers said that executives instructed them not to hire Jewish employees. One-third of those surveyed agreed that anti-Semitism was commonplace at their company, with 29 percent agreeing that anti-Semitism was "acceptable" where they worked. Industries where higher levels of anti-Semitism were reported included finance and technology. The survey asked 1,131 hiring managers and recruiters for their answers about anti-Semitism. "Anti-Semitism in the workplace starts at the hiring process with individuals who do not want to hire Jews

because of bigoted stereotypes, but that is not where it ends,” executive recruiter Stacie Haller told in a statement by the firm, detailing the results of the survey. “In this era of fighting for equality in hiring, Jewish individuals have largely been left out of the conversation, and the issue of anti-Semitism has for the most part gone unaddressed,” Haller added.

Israelis Shunned at Qatar World Cup: 'You Are Not Welcome'; Multiple Israelis have claimed to have been met by an atmosphere of hostility and hatred at the World Cup in Qatar, with fans refusing to speak to Israeli journalists, waving Palestinian flags in the background of their videos and yelling at them. Moav Vardy, an Israeli reporter, was yelled at by a Saudi fan who told him that “You are not welcome here. This is Qatar. This is our country. There is only Palestine; no Israel.” Other videos from Qatar show people immediately walking away when they find out the person interviewing them is Israeli. In one particular video, Ohad Hemo begins to interview a group of Lebanese men who then walk away when Hemo tells them he’s Israeli. One of them then turns back and asks Hemo what he’s doing there and then tells him that Israel doesn’t exist. In other videos, people stand behind various Israeli reporters and raise Palestinian flags. Israeli soccer legend Eli Ohana also faced anti-Israel sentiments when he was on a golf cart being driven by a Qatari policeman. When Ohana said he is Israeli, the officer asked him if he was joking, and Ohana then said he was really Portuguese in order to avoid trouble. The officer told him that if he had been Israeli, he would have turned the car around and refused to drive him.

Canadian Religious Leaders Speak Out Against ‘Morally Depraved’ Euthanasia Policy; Canadian religious leaders are speaking out with growing concern as the clock ticks down on the activation of new policies that would allow mentally ill people to be euthanized with remarkable speed — just 90 days after two doctors approve the request for assisted suicide. Canada legalized assisted suicide, which it prefers to call by the euphemism Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID), in 2016. Euthanasia was initially limited to patients over the age of 18 suffering from a terminal illness — but, as critics predicted, the standards have been relentlessly loosened with every passing year. Removing the requirement that natural death must be “reasonably foreseeable” for euthanasia subjects opened the door to letting mentally ill people kill themselves, and that very policy will go into effect on March 17, 2023. Critics of MAID policy are using these last few months to raise alarms about the explosion of suicides among Canadians. State-sanctioned suicides increased by 32 percent last year, putting MAID very nearly on par with Chinese coronavirus as a cause of death in Canada. With roughly 20 percent of Canadians reporting mental health issues, the number of deaths is poised to skyrocket next year. Some apprehensive doctors told Canadian media that they feared overburdened mental health programs would be strongly tempted to recommend MAID to clear up their caseloads. Some treatment programs have five-year waiting lists that might abruptly become quite a bit shorter in March 2023. Other doctors were concerned about the ethical and legal ramifications of declaring mental health issues incurable or terminal, a far more subjective diagnosis than would be the case with physical ailments. Canadian religious leaders quoted by American Media questioned the morality of providing assisted suicide to people suffering from mental illness, arguing the practice devalues human life, makes it more difficult to battle serious depression, and will inevitably kill more poor Canadians because only the rich can afford private doctors who refuse to give up on them. Vancouver Archbishop J. Michael Miller said last month that Canada’s assisted suicide laws are “morally depraved.”

Palestinian Christians in Bethlehem Fight PA over Christmas Festivities; The Palestinian Authority has been forced to call off a press conference that was supposed to take place in Ramallah the previous week, regarding the upcoming Christmas festivities, after protests by the Bethlehem Municipality and Christian leaders. Several Christian residents of Bethlehem accused the PA of attempting to “hijack” their holidays and marginalize the city’s role in organizing and overseeing the celebrations. Announcements about Christmas festivities have always been made from Bethlehem, they said. The

dispute between Bethlehem and Ramallah over Christian holidays is unprecedented. Several Christians took to social media to express outrage over the PA's attempt to shift attention from Bethlehem to Ramallah ahead of Christmas. "Who gave the Palestinian Authority the right to hijack our holidays?" asked a Christian businessman from Bethlehem. "Our city is the only party authorized to do so. This is extremely ridiculous." A Christian tour guide from the town of Beit Jala, near Bethlehem, said: "Jesus was born in Bethlehem, not Ramallah. What the Palestinian leadership is doing is an insult not only to Bethlehem but to all Christians."

Jerusalem Bombings: Teenager Killed, 19 Others Injured; At least one person was killed and 19 people were wounded, in two explosions at bus stops to the entrance of Jerusalem on Wednesday morning, November 23, in what police are treating as a coordinated double terror attack. The fatality was identified as a 16-year-old Aryeh Shechopek, who was on his way to a yeshiva in a nearby community when the explosion occurred. The Canadian citizen lived in the capital's Har Nof neighborhood. Both explosions, one at the entrance to the city near the Central Bus Station, and the other in the Ramot neighborhood, occurred at bus stops during rush hour. The explosive devices were said to have been placed in bags left at the stations. The first explosion, which happened shortly after 7 a.m. in Givat Shaul, injured 15 people, including two critically and another four seriously. Magen David Adom said that 12 people were transported to hospitals across the city for medical treatment. The second explosion near the Ramot Intersection in northern Jerusalem took place several moments after the initial explosion. Three people were lightly injured in that attack. The bombs were detonated remotely and were reportedly packed with nails and bolts to maximize casualties. One bus that was near the scene of the first attack was riddled with holes, showing the dispersion of shrapnel. The second explosive device was most likely set up on the fence, according to an Israeli media report. Following an initial investigation at both scenes, police are treating the two explosions as a coordinated joint attack, and are looking for additional explosive devices across the city.

European Union Condemns Jerusalem Bombings; The European Union condemned a pair of terrorist bombing attacks in Jerusalem on Wednesday morning, November 23. European Union Ambassador to Israel Dimitar Tzantchev tweeted his condolences to the family of the victim killed in one of the two bombings, and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. "Horrorified by the terror attacks in Jerusalem that killed one person and left many people injured, including some in critical and serious conditions. I express my deepest condolences to the family of the victims and wish a speedy recovery to all injured. Terror is never justified." The injured have been evacuated to three different Jerusalem hospitals, including Hadassah Ein Kerem Medical Center, Shaare Zedek Medical Center, and Hadassah Mount Scopus Medical Center. Police forces were deployed to the scenes of the explosions, closing Route 1 at the entrance to Jerusalem to traffic. "We were at the MDA station by the entrance to the city when we heard a large explosion," MDA paramedics Moshe Tobolsky and Lior Levy said. "We immediately headed to the scene in large numbers, including ambulances, MICUs and medicycles. Two seriously wounded were lying nearby, a 16-year-old in the bus stop and a 45-year-old on the sidewalk. A number of moderately and mildly injured victims were ambulatory on scene. We rapidly conveyed the seriously injured in MICUs to hospital while providing life-saving treatment."

Turkey and Iran Attack Kurdish areas in Syria and Iraq; Turkey and Iran have carried out attacks against Kurdish areas of Syria and Iraq, threatening to destabilize the region and harm civilian life. Turkey claimed its attacks were in response to "terrorism," although Ankara has provided no evidence that Kurdish groups are behind any terrorist attacks in Turkey. Iran has claimed that its attacks are designed to counter Kurdish groups that back protests in the country. Kurdish cities have been at the forefront of the two months of protests against the regime. Turkey's attacks have struck a wide swath of towns and villages across northern Syria and also northern Iraq. Turkey bombarded Kobani, a city that is famous for

having resisted ISIS in 2014. It also attacked areas such as Tel Rifat, where many displaced people live as refugees. These displaced people were already forced from their homes by a Turkish invasion of Afrin in 2018, when Turkey-backed Syrian rebel groups drove Kurds and other minorities from their homes. Turkey also bombarded other areas along the border, including the area of Tal Tamr, where Christian minorities live, as well as Sinjar, where the Yazidis live. Yazidis were subjected to genocide by ISIS.

Iran to Reach 90% Enriched Uranium, Weighed World Cup Terrorism - IDF Intel Chief; Iran recently weighed initiating a terrorist attack at the current World Cup soccer tournament and was only dissuaded out of concern for how Qatar, the host country, might respond, OC IDF Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Aharon Haliva said Monday, November 21, at the INSS conference on Iran. Echoing the World Cup threat, Defense Minister Benny Gantz said on Monday: “Iran is seeking to make instability a permanent feature. The second that the world around it is stable and flourishing, that is the antithesis of what is happening in Iran. The World Cup could be one of the spots where they might try to create instability.” Haliva said London and the US were both prepared for attacks by Iranian terrorist proxies, but he thought the West still does not comprehend the sustained challenge that Iran presents to it directly. Despite the regime’s concerns, which he said would lead it to act more violently and unpredictably, “I do not see the regime as being in danger.” Iran would likely soon carry out at least a symbolic enrichment of uranium to the 90% weaponized level, Haliva said, adding that the world will be tested as never before. To date, the Islamic Republic has never dared to cross the uranium-enrichment weaponized threshold. Even if Iran crosses this threshold, top Israeli officials still believe it would take Tehran another two years to solve questions related to detonating and delivering a nuclear weapon, Israeli media reported last week.

Iran Hackers Closer to Penetrating Israel, US Drones - Cyberdefense CEO; Iran’s team of hackers has recently advanced closer than ever to being able to penetrate and control Israeli and US drones, ClearSky Cyber Security CEO Boaz Dolev said Monday, November 21. Speaking at the INSS conference on Iran, he listed a number of dangerous trends emanating from the Islamic Republic’s cyber sector. Tehran is expanding its cyber capabilities in every arena, including ongoing improved efforts to hack drones and to develop closer to “zero-day” capabilities, Dolev said. Until now, Dolev was saying that Iran’s zero-day capabilities have been viewed as limited – though the regime did hack aspects of Israel’s water sector in April 2020. Besides improving its own capabilities, he said Iran has started for the first time to more aggressively share cyber attack tools with Hezbollah. This seems to suggest that the Islamic Republic is seeking to multiply the fronts from which Jerusalem must defend itself in the cyber arena, as it has in the physical world. Moreover, Dolev noted Iran’s cyber attacks on governments, such as Albania. The ayatollahs’ cyber attack was successful because it brought down the country’s networks at a moment when a conference of the Kurdish anti-Iranian MEK group was due to hold a major meeting in Albania, he said.

World Cup: Qatar Won't Allow Cooked Kosher Food, Public Jewish Prayer; Jewish organizations have said that even though they were promised otherwise, Qatar won’t allow any cooked kosher food to be sold or offered to visitors of the FIFA World Cup. Sources in Jewish organizations told Israeli media that Qatar broke another promise to allow Jewish prayer services in Doha during the games, claiming it couldn’t secure this type of activity, and then banned it completely. “We were promised to be allowed to create prayer spaces in order for religious Jews who came to see the games to have a place of worship,” a representative of a Jewish organization said. “We were recently told that they banned places of worship for Jews because they cannot secure them.” According to other sources, there is an estimate of more than 10,000 religious Jews from Israel and around the world that are expected to arrive in Doha. “They were promised to be able to cook kosher food including kosher meat, but at the moment have only been allowed to sell cold bagel sandwiches,” they said. According to another source, a number of wealthy American

Jews planned to come as a large group, but canceled their arrangements since they said they wouldn't feel secure and not have enough food to eat.

Kevin McCarthy Says He Will Remove Ilhan Omar from Committee Assignment over 'Anti-Semitic' Comments; House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said on Saturday, November 19, that when he is speaker of the House next year, he plans to remove Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., from the House Foreign Affairs Committee over her "anti-Semitic" comments. "We watch anti-Semitism grow, not just on our campuses, but we watched it grow in the halls of Congress," he said at the Republican Jewish Coalition's 2022 leadership meeting in Las Vegas. "I promised you last year that as speaker she will no longer be on Foreign Affairs, and I'm keeping that promise," he said to cheers from the audience. McCarthy is the likely next speaker once Republicans take the majority in January, pending a vote for the position on January 3. Republicans will have a slim majority, so he can only afford to lose a handful of votes. Since being elected to Congress in 2018, Omar has made several controversial comments widely deemed to perpetuate anti-Semitic tropes, including saying it was "all about the Benjamins" for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and tweeting, "We have seen unthinkable atrocities committed by the U.S., Hamas, Israel, Afghanistan, and the Taliban," which was seen as equating Israel and the U.S. to the Taliban. In a tweet before joining Congress, the Democrat claimed Israel had "hypnotized the world" and after being elected, she submitted a resolution to the House comparing boycotting Israel to boycotting the Nazis.

Israel and Japan Advance Toward Free Trade Agreement; Israel and Japan are advancing initial steps for the signing of a free trade agreement, in a move that is expected to bring down tariffs and lower the prices of Japanese-made cars, toys and other imported goods. "This morning in Tokyo, we agreed to take a first step towards the signing of a free trade agreement between Israel and Japan, which means discounts for products and goods from Japan for the benefit of the Israeli market, and increasing Israeli exports to Japan, the third-largest economy in the world," said outgoing Prime Minister Yair Lapid. "This year, we are also celebrating 70 years of relations between our countries and this is further proof of their growing strength – diplomatically and economically." Japanese companies have invested a total of \$13 billion in the Israeli tech industry since 2000, and over 85 Japanese companies are currently operating in Israel, according to Israel's Foreign Ministry. Japan accounts for 15.8% of all foreign investments in Israeli tech industry, compared to just 1.8% in 2016, and 12% of total investment (foreign and Israeli), according to estimates by consulting firm Harel-Hertz Investment House. At the end of August, Israel and Japan signed an agreement for closer cooperation on defense technology and military equipment. Lapid hailed the advancement of a free trade agreement as "an important achievement for Israel's economy and Israel's standing in the world."



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