

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update February 16, 2023 (25th Sh'vat, 5783)



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Countries in Europe Denounce Attack in Jerusalem: Cowardly Act of Terrorism; Several countries on Friday, February 10, condemned the deadly ramming terrorist attack in Jerusalem. “Deeply shocked and saddened by the terror attack in East Jerusalem. Our thoughts and condolences go to the families of the innocent victims. We strongly condemn this senseless violence,” Italy’s Embassy in Israel said in a statement. Germany’s Foreign Office said it condemns the attack “in the strongest possible terms”. “Our thoughts are with the families of the victims and we wish those injured a swift recovery. To deprive terrorism of its breeding grounds, political dialogue and more cooperation are urgently needed,” it added. The French Embassy in Israel also issued a statement condemning the attack. “Another attack struck this afternoon in East Jerusalem. A ramming attack that killed at least two people and injured a number of people. From the bottom of our hearts, we stand by the relatives of the victims of this cowardly act of terrorism. The violence must stop,” it said. Both the Italian and French embassies made the recurring mistake of calling any areas in Jerusalem in which a terrorist attack occurs “East Jerusalem.” In fact, Ramot is in northwestern Jerusalem. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also strongly condemned the deadly terrorist attack. “The deliberate targeting of innocent civilians is repugnant and unconscionable. The United States extends our deepest sympathies to the injured, and we stand firmly with them in the face of this attack,” said the Secretary of State.

IDF Rescuers in Turkey Pull 9-Year-Old Boy from Rubble, 120 Hours after Quake; Israeli military search and rescue experts on Friday evening, February 10, pulled a 9-year-old boy from under a collapsed building in southeastern Turkey, more than 120 hours after the devastating earthquake struck the region. The dramatic rescue from the rubble in Kahramanmaraş was the 19th Turkish civilian rescued by the Home Front Command teams, according to the Israel Defense Forces. The IDF said the boy, Ridvan, was the brother of 14-year-old Romisa, a girl who had been rescued along with their father Mohammed by the Israeli search and rescue experts earlier in that week. Their mother was found dead after the earthquake. A pediatrician from a nearby IDF field hospital was called to the scene to treat the rescued boy. “We were called by the search and rescue teams to a very complex rescue they had been working on for several hours, since a day earlier they had been working to rescue this child,” said Maj. (res.) Eran

Mashiah, the pediatrician. Mashiah said he had attached the IV to give the child fluids, and headed out when he saw the child had begun to recover, so that the search and rescue teams could continue the rescue. "But at one point he had recovered so much he pulled the IV out. So I went back in and reattached it, and eventually, he was rescued and we brought him to a local hospital," he said. "An amazing and phenomenal story I had the privilege of taking part in," Mashiah said.

IDF Field Hospital in Turkey Treats 180 Injured in Quake, Including Syrian Refugees; An Israeli military field hospital established near the Turkish city of Kahramanmaraş has so far treated around 180 people, including Syrian refugees living in the country, who were injured in the devastating earthquake that has struck the region. The death toll has currently surpassed 28,000. The Israel Defense Forces said Saturday, February 11, that at least 10 Syrian civilians who were in Turkey at the time of Monday's 7.8-magnitude quake and its aftershocks were treated at the field hospital, which was set up in an abandoned medical center building. On Friday, a four-year-old Syrian refugee whose parents were killed in the quake was brought to the field hospital. "This is an area with a lot of Syrian refugees. This boy was rescued three or four days ago, his whole family was killed, and he was brought by his uncle. We treated him and calmed him down. He came in a moderate to serious condition," said Lt. Col. Aziz Ibrahim, a nurse and a commander in the IDF Medical Corps. "I found myself taking out halva from our combat rations and giving it to him, and he loved it," Ibrahim said, referring to the popular sesame snack. "Of course, I also spoke to him in Arabic." Ibrahim said the boy's uncle came up to him and said, "You Israelis treat us better than our people." Israel has deployed around 450 rescue specialists, doctors and nurses to Turkish towns and cities to assist in the relief effort.

Israel Will Strike Any Weapons Iran Sends to Syria under Guise of Aid - Saudi Interview; Israel will not hesitate to strike any weapons Iran sends to Syria under the guise of humanitarian aid, amid rescue efforts after the devastating earthquake, an unnamed Israeli military official told a Saudi Arabian newspaper on Thursday, February 9. The anonymous official added that there is intelligence indicating that Iran intends to take advantage of the crisis to send weapons and equipment to Hezbollah and Syria. A number of Iranian aircraft carrying humanitarian aid have landed in Syria in the days since the earthquake. Hezbollah and Iran-backed militias in Iraq have also joined humanitarian efforts in Syria since the disaster. The official additionally addressed claims that Israel was ready to provide humanitarian aid to Syria, saying that Israel had received no such requests and that the reports were seemingly published in order to push Israel into issues that "have nothing to do with it." The official stressed that Israel is ready to provide aid wherever necessary if it is asked to do so.

Iran Exhibits Missile with 'Death to Israel' Written down the Side; Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corp Aerospace Force unveiled a missile with the words "death to Israel" written down the side of it in Hebrew, on Wednesday, February 8, according to state-run Iranian news agency. The news agency's official Twitter account posted a video on its channel on Wednesday featuring photos of a series of weapons at a public exhibition in Isfahan. Aside from the "death to Israel" missile, the exhibit featured a collection of other missiles, drones and military vehicles. It is unclear if the missile is actually operational or if it was just for show. An unnamed official at the Foreign Ministry told Israeli media that "in case anyone has any doubt - the message is clear." The exhibit featuring the missile comes a week after a drone attack targeted a military industry factory in Isfahan. Iranian media initially reported that the attack had not done any significant damage, but Western intelligence reports later in the day said the attack was a "phenomenal success."

Ticketmaster under Fire for Selling Tickets to Anti-Semitic Nation of Islam Event; Ticketmaster came under fire on Friday, February 10, after it was revealed that it was selling tickets to the Nation of Islam's annual "Saviors' Day" event. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL), upon learning of

Ticketmaster's involvement with the Nation of Islam event, penned a letter to the company's CEO Michael Rapino expressing its misgivings, Jewish media reported. Greenblatt explained that the ADL wasn't "requesting any particular action from your company as it relates to your commercial activities" but added that "we would like to make you aware of Farrakhan's past behavior and statements in relation to multiple protected categories of individuals, including people of the Jewish faith." The ADL has in the past detailed the anti-Semitic rhetoric in speeches given at the events. During the 2018 summit, speakers claimed the Jews controlled the media and called Jews the "Synagogue of Satan" and Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan claimed he wasn't "an anti-Semite, but rather a truth teller, adding that the 'powerful' Jews are my enemy." According to the ADL, during the 2022 event, "Farrakhan again injected anti-Semitism into his address, claiming that Jews are the enemy of Jesus and promoting anti-Semitic tropes about Jewish control."

'Jerusalem of Gold': Volunteer Unearths Artifact of 'Great Value' at Archaeological Site; An ancient 1,600-year-old bead made of pure gold was discovered during an archeological dig in the City of David in the core of Jerusalem, Wednesday, February 8, from dirt that was removed from a Roman structure in the Emek Tzurim National Park. The unique bead was found when one volunteer, Hallel Feidman, 18, was working at a sifting station when she spotted the small object. The bead is believed to have been just one of a set of beads on a necklace or bracelet of an affluent individual – a theory that was additionally backed up by the location it was found in. The bead was uncovered where a "grandiose structure" once stood, more than 80 feet in length along the Pilgrimage Road in the City of David. The suspected affluence of the inhabitants of the building was also reportedly evidenced by additional findings like a mosaic floor and imported clay vessels. Dr. Amir Golani, an ancient jewelry expert with the Israel Antiquities Authority, said that while finding a gold bead was rare, the technique used in creating the bead is what made it a particularly special find. The expert explained that the technique used to create the bead came from outside of Israel and likely made its way to the City of David through the extensive trade relations it shared with other regions at the time.

Earthquake in Turkey, Syria Is Deadliest in More than a Decade, as Deaths Pass 21,000; The earthquake in Turkey and Syria has killed more than 21,000 people, making it the deadliest seismic event in more than a decade. Turkey's disaster management agency said the country's death toll passed 8,500. The Syrian Health Ministry said the death toll in government-held areas has climbed past 1,200, while at least 1,400 people have died in the rebel-held northwest, according to volunteer first responders known as the White Helmets. More than 30,000 people have been injured from the Monday morning 7.8 magnitude earthquake, and the death toll is expected to continue to rise as rescue workers search for survivors underneath the rubble. The quake is the world's deadliest seismic event since 2011, when a 9.0 magnitude quake off the northeast coast of Japan triggered a tsunami, killing nearly 20,000 people. Neither Turkey nor Syria provided figures for the number of people still missing Wednesday, February 8, as Pope Francis asked during his weekly general audience for prayers and demonstrations of solidarity. The quake toppled thousands of buildings, and frigid temperatures and ongoing aftershocks have complicated rescue efforts. Search teams from more than two dozen countries have been sent to help Turkey's emergency personnel, and the country has received numerous promises of aid.

Assad Bombs Earthquake-Hit Rebel-Held Area, As Rescuers Try to Save Syrian Civilians; The Syrian government bombed an opposition-held area of the country in the immediate aftermath of Monday's catastrophic earthquake, the UK has said. MP Alicia Kearns, who chairs the Foreign Affairs Committee, condemned President Bashar al-Assad for launching a 'truly callous and heinous attack' on the town of Marea, found in Syria's north-west that was struck by the earthquake. Marea sits around 70 miles south of the Turkish town of Pazarcik, which is close to the epicenter of Monday's 7.8-magnitude quake. Responding to the MP's statement, UK Foreign Secretary slammed the Assad regime for the 'completely

unacceptable bombing'. 'Sadly it speaks to a long-standing pattern of behavior by the Assad regime, a regime that we condemn, have sanctioned and will continue to bring about sanctions — working with our international friends and partners — to try to prevent behavior like this occurring again,' he said. The statements came after the White Helmets organization had issued a plea to diplomats, calling on them to pressure Damascus to ensure that there is no bombing in the areas affected by the quake. The Syrian Red Crescent, meanwhile, appealed to Western countries to lift sanctions and provide aid as Assad's government remains a pariah in the West, complicating international cross-border relief efforts.

Already Devastated by Earthquake, Turkey Faces Increased Threat of Terrorism; As Turkey deals with the consequences of the deadly earthquakes that struck the region on Monday, February 6, another potential hazard looms over the country: the security threat posed by the earthquake's effect on the Turkish-Syrian border. "The whole focus of Turkey and its allies is on how to respond to the devastating earthquake and its consequences," Dr. Hamoon Khelghat-Doost, professor of political science at the University of Lincoln, UK, and Üsküdar University, Istanbul said in an interview. Turkey's singular focus on responding to the earthquake could create favorable circumstances for terrorist organizations attempting to penetrate the border. "All the Turkish state's capacities are mobilized to address the earthquake-related issues. This is not a moment to be missed by extremist organizations," Khelghat-Doost said. "Any event, including natural disasters, that can divert the attention of a nation to a topic other than securing its borders is very much welcomed by extremist organizations such as ISIS." Khelghat-Doost noted that the Islamic State (IS) group similarly used the coronavirus pandemic as an opportunity to reorganize and amass power.

IDF Sending 230-Person Field Hospital to Turkey, Expanding Israeli Aid; The IDF announced late Tuesday night that on Wednesday, February 8, it will be sending 230 medical professionals to Turkey to establish a field hospital. The new delegation will complement the 150-soldier delegation sent late Monday night-early Tuesday morning to assist with search and rescue efforts. The new medical delegation will be led by IDF Col. Elad Edri and will include a mix of doctors, nurses and paramedics, including some from the Health Ministry. A statement indicated that all members of the delegation would receive the appropriate vaccinations for avoiding transmitting diseases globally.

Israel Shaken by Earthquake Centered 24 Miles North of Jerusalem; A 3.5-magnitude tremor occurred at 11:14 p.m. local time and was centered around 24 miles north of Jerusalem, according to Israel's Energy Ministry's Seismology Division. The Home Front Command said the earthquake warning system dubbed Teruah was not activated because the tremor did not pose a danger to residents. No significant damage was reported. Arab reports say that cracks have formed on dozens of buildings. Massive earthquakes in Israel are mentioned in many prophetic accounts about the end of days. According to these accounts, these earthquakes will be so severe as to cause geographic changes in the Temple Mount, requiring the construction of an entirely new city, and bringing about the prophecy in Zechariah. A sinkhole that appeared in the courtyard of an Arab-owned house in the Ras al Amud neighborhood of Jerusalem adjacent to the Mount of Olives offered a glimpse of the biblical narrative coming to life. Israel has experienced heavy rains for the past week and the cause of the sinkhole is unknown. Israel's Jordan Valley and Dead Sea are part of the Syrian-African Rift Valley, which stretches from Lebanon's Beqaa Valley to Mozambique in Southeastern Africa.

Exclusive – America First Legal Suing Biden Administration for 'Enabling' Palestinian Terror; America First Legal (AFL), a conservative group founded by former President Donald Trump adviser Stephen Miller which aims to fight against "lawless executive actions and the Radical Left," is pushing to hold President Biden accountable for his financing of Palestinian terrorism. In December 2022, Rep. Ronny Jackson (R-TX) announced his filing of a lawsuit against the current administration "to stop them

from breaking the law,” after then-President Donald Trump signed the Taylor Force Act into law. The Act, named for an Army veteran killed by a Palestinian terrorist while visiting Israel in 2016, seeks to prevent tax dollars from financing terrorism by prohibiting U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) while it continues to pay stipends to Palestinian terrorists in Israeli prisons and families of the deceased. Slamming the president’s “failed foreign policy,” Jackson accused Biden of “actively stabbing our greatest ally in the back,” noting that Democrats are “ecstatic” over the betrayal of the Jewish State. “Israel has the right to exist in security, free from violent assault, and the United States should do everything we can to uphold that right and oppose all who threaten it,” he added. According to a Friday communiqué, the necessity of the group’s lawsuit is “unfortunately illustrated by the recent heinous actions” committed by Palestinian terrorists who, on January 27, “increased their terrorist attacks on innocent Israelis, all with the blessing and celebration” of the Palestinian Authority (PA). In addition, the group noted, “an official in the Fatah movement, which runs the PA, praised the terrorists, announcing, ‘We greet and bless these heroic operations in Jerusalem by the heroes of Jerusalem.’” AFL, highlighting the PA’s “long history of committing acts of terrorism,” noted that the recent attacks “follow a significant increase in terrorist activities with 2022 being the greatest number since 2006.”

Iran's Supreme Leader Khamenei Grants Amnesty to 'Tens of Thousands' Detained in Protests;

Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on Sunday, February 5, reportedly ordered an amnesty or reduction in prison sentences for “tens of thousands” of people detained amid nationwide anti-government protests shaking the country, acknowledging for the first time the scale of the crackdown. The decree by Khamenei, part of a yearly pardoning the Supreme Leader does before the anniversary of Iran’s 1979 Islamic Revolution, comes as authorities have yet to say how many people they detained in the demonstrations. State media reports about the decree offered no explanation for the decision by Khamenei, who has final say on all matters of state in Iran. However, prisons and detention facilities already had faced overcrowding in the country after years of protests over economic issues and other matters, noted American media. More than 19,600 people have been arrested during the protests, according to Human Rights Activists in Iran, a group that has been tracking the crackdown. At least 527 people have been killed as authorities’ violently suppressed demonstrations, the group said.



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