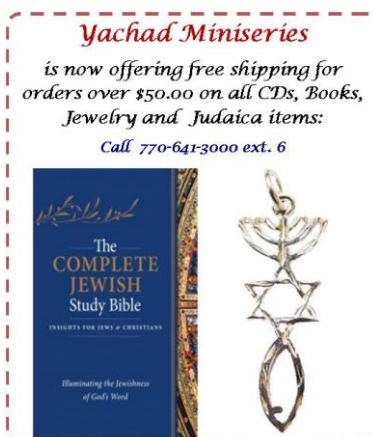


Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update March 23, 2023 (Nisan 1, 5783)



[For the Yachad Report Newsletter For March 2023](#)

Donate



IDF Suspects Hezbollah Behind Bombing Attack on Northern Highway; Terrorist Killed; On Monday morning, March 13, a bomb planted on the side of the Route 65 highway near the Megiddo Junction exploded, seriously wounding Shareef ad-Din, 21, from the Arab village of Salem. The Israeli military suspects that the Lebanese Hezbollah terror group is behind the blast in northern Israel, the Israel Defense Forces and Shin Bet security agency said Wednesday. The alleged terrorist was shot dead on the Lebanese border several hours after the attack on Monday. He was armed with an explosives belt at the time. "The assessment is that neutralizing the terrorist prevented another attack," the IDF said. The military said the suspected terrorist crossed into Israel from Lebanon overnight between Saturday and Sunday and planted the bomb, possibly on behalf of the Iran-backed Hezbollah. The IDF stated that there were no other known terrorists who had infiltrated Israel with the suspect, who is believed to have been alone during the attack. The bomb itself was considered unusual according to the IDF and did not appear to be similar to explosive devices used by Palestinians in recent months.

Islamic Jihad, Hamas Commanders Killed in Clashes with Israeli Forces in Jenin; Two commanders of local branches of the Islamic Jihad and Hamas, terrorist groups were killed in clashes with Israeli forces in Jenin on Thursday, March 16. The two killed were identified as Nidal Hazem, a member of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement's al-Quds Brigades and the commander of the Baha Force unit, and Youssef Shreim, a member of Hamas's al-Qassam Brigades. A third individual, identified as Omar Awadin, and a fourth individual were killed amid the clashes, as well and 20 others were wounded. The IDF, Shin Bet, and Border Police announced after the raid that they had assassinated Hazem and an additional member of the Islamic Jihad movement named Youssef Abu Ashrin. Abu Ashrin has not been reported as one of those killed in Palestinian reports and it is unclear if Youssef Shreim is the same individual. According to the IDF, Hazem was involved in "significant terrorist activity" and Abu Ashrin was involved in producing explosives and firing at IDF soldiers, among other terrorist activities. Hazem and Shreim were reportedly commanders in their respective terrorist groups. Hazem was also the nephew of Fathi Hazem, the father of the terrorist who carried out the Dizengoff shooting attack last year.

Netanyahu: We'll Get the Terrorists Wherever They Are; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at the weekly Cabinet meeting that the State of Israel is currently engaged in "three struggles: Against the Iranian nuclear program, against terrorism, and against anarchy." "First, the diplomatic struggle. The Government of Israel is continuing the struggle against the Iranian nuclear program. Last week I met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. I stood together with the Chancellor on the platform in Berlin from which Jews were sent to the death camps," Netanyahu said. He said that unlike during the Holocaust, the Jewish people have a state to defend themselves from regimes like the Iranian rulers who threaten to obliterate them. "We do everything necessary to defend ourselves. Like I say to world leaders and as I told Chancellor Scholz, the Jewish state will not allow another Holocaust." "The great turning point in the fate of our people found prominent expression during my visit in the discussions that we held on providing Israel's Arrow 3 system to Germany. In the Holocaust, the Jews were defenseless against Nazi Germany. Eighty years later, Germany is seeking to acquire defensive systems from the Jewish state." "Now, regarding the struggle against terrorism, our forces are active around the clock in order to settle accounts with the terrorists and thwart terrorist infrastructure. Dozens of terrorists have been eliminated in the past month; many others have been arrested." "I reiterate: Whoever tries to harm Israeli citizens will pay the price. We will find the terrorists and the architects of terrorism everywhere."

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Responsible for German Synagogue Shooting, Officials Say; After a century-old synagogue in Essen, Germany, was struck by two bullets last November, news reports connected it to the shooting at a synagogue in Halle three years earlier that had been perpetrated by a far-right German extremist. But authorities quickly connected the Essen shooting to a different kind of perpetrator: Ramin Yektaparast, a biker gang leader wanted on suspicion of murder in Germany, who now lives in Iran and is accused of directing anti-Semitic attacks from there. German intelligence officials revealed in December that they believed the Essen shooting and two other synagogue attacks at the same time had ties to Iran. Two weeks ago, American media quoted anonymous German and US intelligence sources who named Yektaparast as a suspect, and as an alleged asset of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps. The United States considers the Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization, though Germany does not. Matthew Levitt, a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said Iranian agents have seen high-level assassination plans foiled and now are turning to "softer" targets in their efforts to sow terror and harm their country's enemies. Giving back and bringing light into the darkness. Don't miss out on this uplifting and inspiring event.

US Anti-Jewish Incidents Jumped Nearly 20% in 2021, FBI Finds in Updated Report; A new FBI report found that anti-Jewish incidents in the United States increased nearly 20% in 2021 relative to 2020 but decreased relative to prior years. The updated FBI statistics released Monday, March 13, counted 817 anti-Jewish criminal offenses reported by local law enforcement agencies in 2021, up from 683 in 2020 — a year when people largely stayed off the streets for a substantial period due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 numbers, however, represent a 15% decline from 2019, when the FBI reported 963 hate crimes, as well as a slight decline from 2018 when FBI statistics show 847 hate crimes. Overall, the report showed a total of more than 10,800 total hate crimes — the highest number in decades. As in previous years, anti-Jewish incidents comprised the majority of the 1,590 hate crimes based on religion. The updated data released on Monday still has significant gaps. Data reported from Chicago, for example, represents only two quarters of 2021. The ADL called on Congress to mandate that state and local law enforcement agencies report hate crime data to the FBI in order to receive federal funding.

Herzog: 'Israel Is at Edge of Abyss,' Civil War Is A Real Threat; "Those who think that a real civil war, with lives lost, is a line we will not cross, have no idea. Precisely now, 75 years into Israel's existence, the abyss is at our fingertips," President Isaac Herzog said in an introduction speech to what he called the "People's Directive," a comprehensive document intended to end the current conflict in Israel

over the government's proposed reforms of Israel's judicial system. The president did not present the directive itself, choosing instead to make an impassioned speech, during which the document was published online and on social media. "The last few weeks have been tearing us apart," the president began. "They are harming Israel's economy, security, political ties, and especially Israeli cohesion. The family Shabbat meals have become an arena of struggle, friends and neighbors have become rivals. The conflicts are getting worse; the worries, the fears, the anxieties – they are all more tangible than ever," Herzog said. The president, however, said that the crisis was also an opportunity. "I truly believe with all my heart that today, we are also facing a major, historic opportunity. An opportunity for balanced, smart, and agreed-upon constitutional regulation of the relations of the branches of government in our Jewish and democratic country." Approximately half an hour after the speech ended, the Likud expressed its disapproval. "An attempt to reach an agreement is appropriate, but during the weeks that the coalition representatives held negotiations with the president, the opposition representatives refused to hold any negotiations," Education Minister Yoav Kisch said in a statement on behalf of the party. "The outline presented by the president does deal with issues in the reform, but unfortunately it includes key clauses that only perpetuate the existing situation and do not create the necessary minimum balance between the government branches," Kisch said.

Palestinians Throw Animal Carcasses into Graves at Biblical Site; The ancient town of Sebastia, one of the major archaeological sites of the Holy Land which served as the capital of the Kingdom of Israel nearly three millennia ago, has been damaged by Palestinian road construction, Israeli officials said Tuesday, March 14. The destruction at the site highlights the lawlessness in the area and the need for the preservation, upkeep, and safeguarding of Israeli archaeological sites in Palestinian-controlled areas after decades of neglect, damage, and disrepair. The damage to the site was made public by Shomrim Al Hanetzach (Protecting Eternity), an NGO that seeks to preserve Jewish heritage sites in Judea and Samaria. It discovered that a road had been paved in the heart of the archaeological site, said Moshe Gutman, the group's chairman. During the construction work, a wall dating back to the Herodian times (37 BCE-73 CE) was destroyed and burial caves dating back to the Second Temple period (586 BCE-70 CE) were smashed, looted, and obliterated, he said. In addition, carcasses of wild boars were found thrown into the ancient graves. "This is an attempt to systematically and decisively destroy any connection between the State of Israel and the Jewish people, and one of our most important cultural and historic sites," Yossi Dagan, Samaria Regional Council head, said.

Jerusalem's Tower of David Named One of 'World's Greatest Places' by TIME; Ahead of the Tower of David Jerusalem Museum's grand reopening in June 2023, TIME Magazine revealed that the institution has earned a spot on its third annual list of World's Greatest Places. "The locations must be enthralling, exciting, and often new or advanced to meet the criteria for TIME." The historic Jerusalem icon boasts a 360-degree view of the city and has been listed as one of the 50 important places to explore around the world. This prestigious title comes at an exciting time for the museum, given that it will reopen to the public on June 1, 2023, after a three-year, \$50 million renewal and conservation project that has greatly transformed each visitor's experience. 10 new exhibition galleries, with a combination of state-of-the-art technology and ancient artifacts to share ancient tales of Jerusalem, have been added. A new multi-level entrance pavilion will be set up to welcome visitors at the Jaffa Gate entrance to the Old City, complete with a coffee shop.

Iran's IRGC Rolls out New Missiles, Naval Supply Ships; Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is increasing its naval power, according to Iranian reports. Images of newly equipped fast boats, as well as a new support ship, were broadcast on Thursday morning, March 9. The IRGC, which runs its own branch of Iran's navy, will receive almost 100 new patrol boats and a large "ocean liner"-style support ship, which was converted for naval needs, the reports said. This expands Iran's ability to threaten countries in the Gulf

and project power at sea. Iran basically has two navies – an official one and one under the IRGC. Iran has been trying to expand its relatively small naval power in recent years, even sending ships on long-distance voyages to Russia and South America. The reports about Iran's new missile-capable and drone-launch-capable missile boats goes back to at least 2020, when an online defense media company reported that Iran had received 112 missile-launching boats. The Iranian reports of the newly equipped ships come while Iran continues to send weapons to the Houthis in Yemen. The US and UK navies have interdicted some of these shipments.

Iran Says Supreme Leader Pardoned 22,000 Arrested in Anti-Regime Protests; Iran announced Monday, March 13, that the country's supreme leader has pardoned 22,000 people arrested in the recent anti-government protests that swept the Islamic Republic. There was no immediate independent confirmation of the mass release. The statement by Iran's judiciary head Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejehi offered for the first time a glimpse of the full scope of the government's crackdown that followed the demonstrations over the September death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who had been detained by the country's morality police. Ejehi said a total of 82,656 prisoners and those facing charges had been pardoned. Of those, some 22,000 had been arrested amid the demonstrations, he said. Those pardoned had not committed theft or violent crimes, he added. However, anger still remains in the country as it struggles through the collapse of the nation's currency, the trial, economic woes, and uncertainty over its ties to the wider world after the collapse of Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Iranian state media had previously suggested Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei could pardon that many people swept up in the demonstrations ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, when the pious fast from dawn to dusk. Ramadan starts later next week.

Iran and Saudi Arabia Restore Ties After Years of Tensions; Iran and Saudi Arabia on Friday, March 10, agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations and reopen embassies after years of tensions between the two countries, including a devastating attack on the heart of the kingdom's oil production attributed to Tehran. The deal, struck in Beijing this week amid its ceremonial National People's Congress, represents a major diplomatic victory for the Chinese, as Gulf States perceive the United States slowly withdrawing from the wider Middle East. It also comes as diplomats have been trying to end a yearslong war in Yemen, a conflict in which both Iran and Saudi Arabia are deeply entrenched. The two countries released a joint communique with China on the deal, which apparently brokered the agreement. Chinese state media did not immediately report on the deal. Iranian state media posted images and video it described as being taken in China with the meeting. The United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Saturday also welcomed the deal reached by Saudi Arabia and Iran to re-establish diplomatic relations.

Saudi Arabia Denies Visas to Israeli Delegates at UN Event – Report; Against the backdrop of reports of diplomatic efforts between Israel and Saudi Arabia and the desire to normalize ties, the reality on the surface seems to be completely different. An Israeli delegation was invited to participate in a UN tourism event in Saudi Arabia, but Saudi authorities refused to give them visas, according to American media. The delegation consisted of residents of the Circassian town of Kafr Kama, who were invited to a special ceremony by the UN after it was included in an exclusive list of tourist destinations. The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) invited residents of Kafr Kama and from 22 other countries to a two-day event in the Saudi city of Al-Ula. However, the Israeli delegation wasn't given visas, despite an appeal by UN officials who demanded that Saudi authorities treat each of the organization's member states equally. Israel's Foreign Ministry sent a letter to the UNWTO insisting that the delegation receive the visas. The UNWTO secretary-general reportedly sent a letter to the Saudi Tourism Ministry asking for the visas. Both the ministry and the UNWTO declined to comment.

Percentage of Israelis Optimistic about National Security Drops to 31%; February saw a sharp increase in the proportion of Israelis who describe their nation's overall situation as bad or very bad, according to the Israeli Democracy Institute's February 2023 edition of the Israeli Voice Index. The percentage of Israelis who are optimistic about the future of Israel's national security declined from 46% in January to 31% in February. Optimists were in the minority across the political spectrum - 11% of those on the Left, 22% of those in the center and 46% of those on the Right reported optimism about Israel's security. The IDI report noted that this could be due to February's uptick in terror attacks. The level of optimism about the future of democracy has stayed the same over the last several months, according to the IDI's reports. Only 38% of all respondents reported feeling optimistic about the future of democratic rule in Israel. Among those, 41% of Jews expressed this sentiment whereas only 19% of Arabs interviewed did. In terms of Israel's overall situation, the percentage of interviewees who characterized it as bad or very bad rose from 30% to 47% since October 2022 when the question was last asked.

In Ground-breaking Ruling, Middle Eastern Islamic Council Declares 'Fatwa' Against Hamas; In a groundbreaking ruling, an official Islamic legislative body based in the Arab world declared a "fatwa," or a legal opinion, against the Islamist militant group Hamas Thursday, March 9, calling its treatment of millions of Palestinians living under its rule in the Gaza Strip "inhumane", and urging the terrorist organization and its followers to immediately give up arms, sit down and make peace. The unprecedented declaration, published by the Islamic Fatwa Council, a non-government body of Shiite, Sunni and Sufi clerics headquartered in the Iraqi spiritual capital of Najaf, states that Hamas, an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, "bears responsibility for its own reign of corruption and terror against Palestinian civilians within Gaza" and deems "it prohibited to pray for, join, support, finance or fight on behalf of Hamas." "As an Islamic legal body, we take note of the condition of the oppressed all over the world," Muhammad Ali Al-Maqdisi, a cleric for the council, said in a video statement shared with American media. "We have seen what Gaza has been subjected to under Hamas' rule. We have also seen the atrocities which, in our view, have been perpetrated against Palestinians — faithful and unarmed civilians — who have neither strength nor recourse. And, so, we believed it was our Islamic obligation to aid the oppressed." According to the council, the decision to issue the legal ruling, which while being non-binding is considered highly influential in the Muslim world, came after the publication of a series of video testimonies from ordinary civilians in Gaza published last month by the U.S.-based Center for Peace Communications.

6,600 Foreigners, Mostly Syrians, Killed in Turkey's Earthquakes – Analysis; A new report from Turkey has said that the death toll in the earthquake has now risen to 48,448, and that 6,660 of them are believed to be foreign nationals. Some "6,660 of the dead were foreign nationals," Turkish Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu said at a news conference, according to the report, adding that the statement was made "in quake-hit Malatya province along with Culture and Tourism Minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy." The report said that more than 13.5 million people have been affected. The large number of foreigners killed, almost 14% of the victims, points to a disproportionate effect on foreign nationals, particularly Syrians, whom it is believed were most of the foreign victims. The number 6,600 likely means that other missing Syrians will also be added to this number, perhaps as many as 10,000 eventually. The overall number of Syrians killed is not known. Syrian refugees in Turkey are also facing obstacles to travel and where they can reside after the earthquake. Because it affected areas with a large population of Syrian refugees, they will also need housing and solutions for their needs.

Coin with Oldest Depiction of Temple Menorah Displayed for First Time; An ancient coin bearing the oldest-known depiction of the Temple menorah went on display to the public for the first time on Monday, March 13, with the opening of the recently renovated Davidson Center in Jerusalem's Old City. The coin dates to around 40 BCE, during Roman times and the reign of the last Hasmonean king. "This is

the oldest known artistic depiction of the menorah, created 107 years before the destruction of the Second Temple,” says Dr. Yuval Baruch, head of archaeology and administration at the Israel Antiquities Authority. The coin was donated to Israel sometime during the 1940s, during the British Mandate period, and it’s unclear where or when it was found. It’s part of an exhibit of rare artifacts that contain some of the earliest known references and research about the origin of the Temple menorah, a seven-branched candelabra that is also used as the symbol of the modern State of Israel. Next to the coin is the Magdala Stone, which was discovered in the town of Migdal in 2009 and was likely a Torah reading table from a first-century synagogue. The intricately carved stone shows multiple menorahs as well as a possible depiction of the Jerusalem Temple. The new visitor’s center will combine archaeological finds with interactive technology to help visitors experience what life was like during the First and Second Temple Periods.



Robert I. Solomon: Messianic Rabbi, rabbisolomon@yachad.com

Jeffery Blalock: Ministries Coordinator, jeffery@yachad.com

Yachad Ministries, 950 Pine Grove Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075

E-mail: info@yachad.com, Web Page: <https://www.yachad.com>

Phone: 770-641-3000 (ext. 6)

Sharing Yeshua in unity with both Jew and Gentile

To unsubscribe [click here](#).

()