

# ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update April 20, 2023 (Nisan 29, 5783)***

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The image shows two items: on the left, the cover of 'The Complete Jewish Study Bible' with the subtitle 'INSIGHTS FOR JEWS & CHRISTIANS' and the tagline 'Illuminating the Jewishness of God's Word'; on the right, a silver Star of David pendant with a chain.

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***Ahead of Annual Memorial Day, 147,199 Holocaust Survivors Living in Israel;*** There are 147,199 Holocaust survivors living in Israel, according to figures published Sunday, April 16, by the Holocaust Survivors' Rights Authority ahead of the upcoming Holocaust Memorial Day. Israel officially marks its annual Holocaust Memorial Day starting Monday evening. According to the authority, which is part of the Social Equality Ministry, the average age of Holocaust survivors is 85, with around 30,000 over the age of 90 and 462 who has lived for over a century. The youngest Holocaust survivors are aged 76. Five hundred and twenty-one Holocaust survivors immigrated to Israel from Ukraine in the wake of the Russian invasion. Haifa is home to the largest number of Holocaust survivors in Israel, followed by Jerusalem and then Tel Aviv. Of the Holocaust survivors living in Israel, 63 percent were born in Europe — 37% are from countries of the former Soviet Union, 11% from Romania, and 5% from Poland. An additional 2.7% are from Bulgaria, 1.4% from Hungary, 1.4% from Germany, and 1% from former Czechoslovakia and France. An additional 27,765 survivors are from Morocco and Algeria, where they suffered discrimination and harassment under the Nazi-allied Vichy government. A further 11% are from Iraq, survivors of the Nazi-inspired Farhud pogrom of June 1941. Seven percent are from Libya and Tunisia, countries that during the Holocaust passed racist laws against Jews and imprisoned their communities in labor camps. Some of the Jewish community were also sent to the Giado concentration camp in Libya. (TOI / VFI News)

***Iran Sent Weapons to Strike Israel under Guise of Earthquake Aid to Syria;*** Iran has used earthquake relief flights to bring weapons and military equipment into its strategic ally Syria, nine Syrian, Iranian, Israeli, and Western sources said. The sources told British media that the goal was to buttress Iran's defenses against Israel in Syria and to strengthen Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. After the February 6 earthquake in northern Syria and Turkey, hundreds of flights from Iran began landing in Syria's Aleppo, Damascus, and Latakia airports bringing supplies, and this went on for seven weeks, the sources said. The supplies included advanced communications equipment and radar batteries and spare parts required for a planned upgrade of Syria's Iran-

provided air defense system in its civil war, said the sources, two regional sources, and a Western intelligence source. The British media outlet spoke to Western intelligence officials, sources close to the Iranian and Israeli leadership as well as a Syrian military defector and a serving Syrian officer about the flights for this report. Iran purposely moved the aid mainly via Aleppo International Airport. This is a new method of Iran, which previously would send munitions via Damascus, or to T-4 near Palmyra, or via other methods such as routing them through Iraq and then to Albukamal. Aleppo airport is near areas affected by the earthquake. Israel quickly became aware of the flow of weapons into Syria and mounted an aggressive campaign to counter it. Aleppo's runway was hit by Israel just hours after two Iranian cargo planes had landed with arms shipments under the pretext of aid relief, said a regional source, information that was confirmed by two other Western intelligence sources. (JPost / VFI News)

***Chanting 'Death to Israel,' Tens of Thousands March in Tehran for 'Jerusalem Day';*** Tens of thousands of Iranians, some chanting "death to America" and "death to Israel," marched in the capital of Tehran on Friday, April 14, to mark "Jerusalem Day," an annual show of support for the Palestinians. Banners raised by demonstrators read "the destruction of Israel is near" and "Palestine is the axis of unity of the Muslim world." Senior Iranian officials attended the rally, including President Ebrahim Raisi. Parliament Speaker Mohammad Qalibaf told demonstrators that Israel is the "root" of problems in the region and that the Palestinians are hindering Israel's plans. "The Palestinians are actively confronting Israeli aggression from Gaza to the heart of Tel Aviv," he added, alluding to a surge in violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since the start of the year. "Yesterday they (Palestinians) were fighting with stones, and now they hit (Israel) with rockets," Qalibaf said. The rally was the first al-Quds Day demonstration after the country was shaken by months of anti-government protests. Al-Quds is the Arabic name for Jerusalem, the contested city at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel captured East Jerusalem in the 1967 Six-Day War and annexed it as its capital. The Palestinians seek the eastern part of Jerusalem as their future capital. Jerusalem is the home of the Temple Mount, the most sacred site in Judaism, which also houses the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest shrine in Islam. (TOI / VFI News)

***Quds Day Cyberattack Strikes Israeli Banks, Red Alert App;*** The websites of Israel's banks, the post office, the electricity company, and the RedAlert warning app were struck by a cyberattack Friday, April 14, with some of the sites going offline, Israeli media reported. The hacker group known as "Anonymous Sudan" has taken responsibility, claiming the targets are Israel Post as well as Bank Leumi, Discount Bank, Mizrahi-Tefahot, Bank Mercantile, Bank Benleumi (First International Bank of Israel) and its subsidiaries Bank Otzar Ha-hayal and Bank Massad. An Israeli news outlet said their site was the victim of a Denial of Service (DoS) attack, which temporarily cut off access to the site, media reported. Around 5 p.m., the hackers attacked the websites of Israeli phone providers after writing "we still have two hours before the sunset prayer, during which we will attack everything in Israel," on their Telegram account. The attempted cyberattacks on Israeli bank websites were identified and stopped, the National Cyber Directorate said. "Thanks to the banks' strong cyber defenses, the websites continue to be live and operational, barring the occasional interruptions," the Cyber Directorate said in a statement, noting that the cyberattacks are limited to the banks' marketing pages and aren't related to their internal systems. (JPost / VFI News)

***UN Called on to Fire Envoy for Questioning Israel's Right to Defense;*** An open letter calling for the dismissal of Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur for Palestinian territories, was sent to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Tuerk on Tuesday, April 11. The reason for the demand is recent comments made by Albanese on Twitter, in which she claimed that Israel can't claim its right to defend itself against "the people it oppresses/whose lands it colonizes." The authors of the letter expressed "utter dismay and outrage at the abhorrent statements" made by Albanese, adding that it is "unfathomable that such a statement would ever be made by a UN representative." The letter was sent on behalf of the International Legal Forum, a global network of lawyers and activists, aiming to combat antisemitism, advance human rights and promote peace in the Middle East, and the Solomon-Observatory on Discrimination, an Italian based NGO combating anti-Semitism. Albanese's statements were made following terror attacks in which sisters Rina and Maia and their mother Lucy Dee, as well as an Italian citizen, were murdered. The letter goes on to stress that Albanese's recent comments are only the latest examples of biased statements by the UN envoy. (JPost / VFI News)

***Israeli Basketball Fans Attacked at Hapoel Jerusalem-Athens Game;*** Chaos erupted at a basketball game between the Hapoel Jerusalem team and A.A.K. Athens Wednesday, April 12, when Greek fans burned an Israeli flag and threw firecrackers at fans of the Israeli team. Several Palestinian Authority flags were seen during the violent incident as well. The game had to be suspended due to the violence and was resumed after security forces intervened. The Israeli team said in a statement following the incident: "Hapoel sees the difficult events in Athens as nothing less than a terrorist attack on Israeli fans, which came in masse to support their team, as they have been doing for years." "In view of the events, in the half of the game, we checked all the methods of operation. Taking out the Hapoel fans was an option that was rejected outright due to the fact that Greek fans surrounded the hall, and there was a real danger of a serious attack outside the hall. " Hapoel Jerusalem said that the team would file a complaint over the incident. Culture and Sports Minister Miki Zohar on Thursday denounced the violent incident by Greek basketball fans as "an anti-Semitic attack against Jews," as the international basketball federation FIBA announced the opening of disciplinary proceedings. In a statement, Zohar demanded action against AEK Athens and said he spoke with the head of FIBA, members of Hapoel Jerusalem, and Greece's deputy sports minister, Eleftherios Avgenakis. The statement said Avgenakis relayed a message from the Greek Prime Minister expressing sadness over the incident, adding that a suspect was arrested and that more arrests were possible. (INN / VFI News)

***Israel, China Team Hopes to Crack Cure for Advanced-Stage Solid Tumors;*** Israel's Enliviex Therapeutics announced a clinical collaboration with China's BeiGene to evaluate the safety and efficacy of combining macrophage reprogramming and an anti-PD-1 immune checkpoint inhibitor to improve the treatment of patients with advanced-stage solid tumors. PD1 stands for "programmed cell death protein 1" and is found in T cells. The protein helps keep immune cells from killing others, including cancer cells. Enliviex's Allocetra is based on technology discovered by Hadassah-University Medical Center's Prof. Dror Mevorah. It is designed to reprogram macrophages, a type of white blood cell that has an anti-cancer role, into their homeostatic state – meaning stronger anti-cancer activity. BeiGene is considered one of the leading companies in the world in the area of cancer immunotherapies, trades on NASDAQ, and has a current market capitalization of \$25 billion. The company developed Tislelizumab, an anti-PD-1 immune checkpoint inhibitor. The drug is approved for various cancer indications in China, and Novartis, a large pharmaceutical company, partnered with BeiGene to market the product in the United States and Europe. According to the BeiGene investor presentation, Novartis/BeiGene expects to receive marketing approval in Europe this year and submit a request for approval from the US Food & Drug Administration, for various indications. Tislelizumab generated more than \$400 million in revenues for BeiGene in 2022. (JPost / VFI News)

***Lucy's Organs Were Donated, PA Will Pay Her Killers \$1 Million;*** Economy Minister Nir Barkat was interviewed Tuesday, April 11 on American media, on the murder of Lucy Dee and her daughters Maia and Rina Dee in a terrorist shooting attack in the Jordan Valley. Barkat stated that the murders showed the difference between the State of Israel and its enemies. "Unfortunately, when the mother died just a few hours ago, they [the Dee family] donated the organs to save other people's lives." "And on the other side, the terrorists - do you know what they're going to get from the Palestinian Authority? A million dollars for the rest of their lives - for killing innocent Jews," he said. "That's the difference between living as Jews, seeking life and making a better life for other people, and the terrorists, who all they seek is death. That's all they seek," Barkat added. Lucy, Maia, and Rina Dee were shot by a terrorist while they were driving in the Jordan Valley on Friday. Maia and Rina, ages 20 and 15, were killed at the scene. Their mother, Lucy, was critically wounded and succumbed to her injuries Monday. Rabbi Leo Dee, the husband and father of the victims, decided to donate his wife's organs to save the lives of five people. "Five lives were saved and two cornea donations will be made, which is very good news for the family as much as a comfort as possible given the circumstances." (INN / VFI News)

***Palestinians Brought Explosives to Al-Aqsa in Last Week's Riots - Police Chief;*** Palestinians who barricaded themselves in al-Aqsa mosque last week brought explosives into the mosque, Israel Police chief Kobi Shabtai told media on Sunday evening, April 9. The Shin Bet is reportedly investigating the explosives being brought into the mosque, with defense sources telling Israeli media that the investigation

is "complicated and complex." Shabtai stated that there were over 400 people who barricaded themselves in the mosque Tuesday, April 4, bringing fireworks, explosives and stones into the building. Police then entered al-Aqsa, firing stun grenades and trying to remove the people barricaded inside. Palestinians in the mosque fired fireworks and threw stones at the Israeli forces. Dozens of Palestinians were reportedly injured or arrested in the clashes. Footage from the scene published by Palestinian media showed police officers hitting Palestinians in the building with chairs and batons and arresting many of them. A few hours after the clashes, 10 rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip toward southern Israel, followed by further rocket fire in the next two days from Gaza and Lebanon toward Israel. When asked about the conduct of police during the clashes at al-Aqsa, Shabtai stressed that the officers were forced to use "force of a somewhat higher degree" due to the complete barricade of the doors of the mosque and the fireworks fired toward them by the rioters. (JPost / VFI News)

***Jordan: the Entire Area of the Temple Mount Belongs Only to Muslims;*** The Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday, April 9, published a statement condemning the visits by Jews to the Temple Mount during Passover, calling them "the frequent invasions of Al-Aqsa Mosque" which are carried out "under heavy security by the Israeli occupation police in a manner that constitutes a violation of the historical and legal situation existing at the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and a violation of the sanctity of the holy places". Sinan al-Majali, a spokesperson for the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, said that the entire area of Al-Aqsa Mosque, which includes 144 dunams (meaning the entire area of the Temple Mount) is a place of worship exclusively for Muslims, and that the Jordanian Department of Endowments is the only entity that is authorized to manage the affairs of Al-Aqsa Mosque and regulate the visit to the place. Muslim clerics claim that the entire area of Al-Aqsa Mosque also includes the Western Wall and belongs exclusively to Muslims. They also completely deny the fact of the past existence of the Holy Temple on the Temple Mount. Al-Majali also blamed the Israeli government for the escalation in Jerusalem and "in all the occupied Palestinian territories and for the deterioration that will get worse if Israel does not stop invading Al-Aqsa and the heavy hand on the worshipers on these blessed days." Sinan Al-Majali said that Israel, being an "occupying country", must comply with its obligations according to international law. (INN / VFI News)

***Muslim World Must Unite Against Israel, Erdogan Says to Iran's Raisi;*** Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan told his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi over the phone that the "Islamic world should be united against Israel's attacks in Palestine," Turkish media reported. The two world leaders also discussed the incidents at the al-Aqsa mosque and Iranian-Turkish relations, the report said. The Turkish president also noted the importance of preserving the status of holy areas and emphasized "reasonable thinking" in order to prevent further escalation of violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories, sources said. Israeli foreign minister Eli Cohen then told his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu the same day that the IDF will respond to any attempt to terrorize civilians. Erdogan condemned the Israeli police's actions at the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem on Wednesday, April 5, calling such acts in the mosque compound a "red line" for Turkey. "I condemn the vile acts against the first qiblah of Muslims in the name of my country and people, and I call for the attacks to be halted as soon as possible," he said. (JPost / VFI News)

***Iran Pressures Jews to Not Celebrate Passover and Join Anti-Israel March;*** The Islamic Republic of Iran exerted pressure on the nation's tiny Jewish community to not celebrate the end of Passover and instead participate in the annual anti-Israel al-Quds Day demonstration that calls for the destruction of Israel. Beni Sabti, an expert on Iran from the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security, told Israeli media on Sunday, April 9, that "there is a silent pressure and everyone knows their role in this regime and the regime won't hurt you" if you demonstrate in the al-Quds Day march. Sabti, who was born in Tehran and speaks fluent Persian, added "And if you don't demonstrate, you will be harmed." He stressed the

Iranian Jewish community has to show support for the al-Quds Day demonstration in order to “survive” in the totalitarian Islamic state. Sabti continued that “the regime sometimes sends IRGC or Basij into synagogues to see if they are talking about Israel or against the Iranian regime.” He also noted that many Iranian Jews are being harmed and avoid greater danger by participating in the al-Quds demonstration. The founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini, created al-Quds Day in 1979 as a worldwide demonstration to protest the existence of the state of Israel. (JPost / VFI News)

***Israel Signs \$400m Deal to Sell Greece Anti-Tank Spike Missiles;*** Israel signed a NIS 1.44 billion (\$400 million) deal to sell Spike anti-tank missiles to Greece, Israel's Defense Ministry said on Monday, April 10, just days after reaching a similar-sized deal to provide air defenses to newly-inducted NATO member Finland. The Spike is a guided anti-tank missile used by many EU and NATO countries produced by Israeli state-owned defense contractor Rafael. "The Spike missiles will strengthen the Greek army's portfolio of operational tools and we expect further expansion through strategic collaborations in the near future," said Rafael CEO Yoav Har-Even. Israel's defense minister said the agreement reinforces ties between the countries. (JPost / VFI News)

***Israeli Firm DOTS Launches Electro-Optical Sensor to Change Agriculture;*** Israeli start-up DOTS (Data Of The Soil) has launched a new technology that could have a dramatic impact on global agriculture, sustainability and the health of the global population: an electro-optical sensor and information system which helps users optimize fertilizer usage based on continuous and readily available soil data, making it possible to significantly reduce the use of fertilizers. The technology is set to mitigate agriculture's damage to the environment from groundwater contamination, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and may also significantly improve the quantity, quality and shelf life of the crops, which will benefit both growers and consumers. DOTS has raised half a million dollars from the Israel Innovation Authority, in addition to \$1.2 million from Labs/02, whose investors include OurCrowd and the multinational Indian corporation Reliance Industries. By detecting and monitoring soil fertilization levels, DOTS enables accurate timing of fertilization cycles and prevents fertilizer overuse. Comparing the sensor to standard laboratory tests shows that the accuracy of the technology is above 92%. Moreover, a series of successful experiments in Israeli tomato greenhouses have demonstrated fertilizer savings of 30% during the growing season, without any damage to the resulting crop. (JPost / VFI News)



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