

# **Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update April 27, 2023 (Iyar, 5783)**

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***59 Soldiers Added to List of Israel's Fallen Since Last Memorial Day;*** Fifty-nine soldiers were killed during their military service since Israel's last Memorial Day, according to figures released by the Defense Ministry on Friday, April 21. Another 86 disabled veterans died due to complications from injuries sustained during their service. The numbers brought the total to 24,213 of those who have died during service to the country since 1860. The annual figures include all soldiers and police who died in the past year, whether in the line of duty, or as a result of an accident, illness, or suicide. Thirty-one names were also added to the list of terror victims who perished in attacks in the past year. Another two disabled victims died due to complications from serious injuries they sustained in attacks, bringing the total to 4,255 since 1851, according to Israel's National Insurance Institute. The most recent Israelis who were murdered in terror attacks are the members of the Dee family, mother Lucy and daughters Rina and Maia. The terrorist and hate attacks have left 3,420 orphans, of which 118 lost both parents, 800 widows, 851 bereaved parents, and 250 families who suffered multiple losses of more than one person per family. (TOI / VFI News)

***Israel's 75th Birthday – 6 Israeli Women to Know;*** Israel's 75th birthday is almost here and we couldn't be more excited to celebrate our state's birth with you. In this article, we showcase 6 amazing Israeli women who have left a lasting and unforgettable mark on our history.

#6 – Dr. Nili Cohen, the first female President of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is a legal scholar whose groundbreaking work in civil rights and constitutional law has helped shape Israeli society.

#5 – Dvora Baron, a literary pioneer who paved the way for a new generation of Hebrew writers and intellectuals, is remembered for her contributions to Israeli literature and her impact on shaping the cultural heritage of the country.

#4 – Miriam Peretz, a symbol of hope and perseverance who has inspired many with her story of resilience in the face of tragedy, is one of Israel's most beloved public figures. After losing two sons in the Israeli army, she became an advocate for love and unity among the oft-divided Israeli people, touching the hearts of people around the world.

#3 – Hannah Senesh. A remarkable young woman whose bravery and resilience during World War II continues to inspire, Hannah Senesh's determination to fight against the Nazis and save innocent lives led her to join the British Army and embark on a dangerous mission to rescue Jews facing certain death.

#2 – Ada Yonath. A pioneering biochemist who made history as the first woman from the Middle East to win a Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Ada Yonath's groundbreaking work on the structure of ribosomes has revolutionized our understanding of how cells work and has opened up new avenues for drug development.

#1 – Golda Meir. A trailblazing leader who shattered the glass ceiling for women in politics, Golda Meir was Israel's first and only female prime minister. Known to everyone as "Golda," she left an indelible mark on Israel's history, becoming a hero to many young women around the world. (I365N / VFI News)

***Never Again Means Halting Nuclear Iran, Netanyahu Says at Holocaust Ceremony;*** "Never again" means that Israel must ensure that Iran will not be allowed to produce nuclear weapons, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony in Yad Vashem on Monday evening, April 17. Israel's enemies such as Iran should not be thinking that internal division has weakened the country to such an extent that they can annihilate the Jewish people, he emphasized, "The Jewish people live". "New oppressors may think that we do not have the determination and internal cohesion to stand up to them. They are very wrong. We will defend ourselves, and together we will repel any threat to our existence," Netanyahu stated. "Our enemies will find us standing together, shoulder-to-shoulder," he exclaimed. The lessons of the Holocaust that evil must be halted in its tracks must be applied here to prevent a nuclear Iran, Netanyahu said. "The victory of the past does not alone guarantee the victory of the future. That is why we firmly fight any nuclear agreement with Iran, which would pave its way to nuclear weapons." "For the same reason, we fight aggressively against Iran's terrorist branches around us. Those who seek to wrap us in a stranglehold of terror will encounter an overwhelming response," he added. (JPost / VFI News)

***At Auschwitz March of the Living, Displays of Jewish Unity in a Sea of Israeli Flags;*** As dozens of tourist buses, broadcasting vans and police-led motorcades flood the roads, residents of a small Polish city, Oświęcim, don't even stop to look. To them, it's a biannual occurrence — on International Holocaust Remembrance Day and on Yom Hashoah. As regular and unflinching as a season change, the influx is taken as a matter of course in this town bordering the grounds of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the labor and death camp that the Nazis built near Krakow. But it's a deeply moving experience for many of the 9,000 people participating in this year's March of the Living. The commemorative walk across the former death camp's grounds brings delegations from multiple countries and Jewish communities on Israel's national day of mourning for the victims of the genocide. This year marks the 35th March of the Living and includes 40 Holocaust survivors and their children. Its theme, in a nod to Wednesday's 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, is Holocaust-era heroism. As in previous years, the first sight at Auschwitz for many delegations as they alighted from their buses was members of a group of Zionist Christians from

Korea, who waved Israeli flags, blew shofars and sang Israeli folk songs. After a short walk, visitors encountered the iconic “Arbeit Macht Frei” (German for “Work Sets You Free”) metal sign at the entrance to the camp – a bone-chilling testament to how the Nazis used deception and the offer of false hope to ensure their prisoners’ obedience right up to their murder. Also attending the 3-kilometer march through the camp were dozens of dignitaries and VIPs, including Italian President Sergio Mattarella, Israeli Education Minister Yoav Kisch, Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi David Lau, United States Ambassador to Israel Tom Nides and his predecessor, David Friedman and Ahmed Al Mansoori who founded the UAE’s first Holocaust exhibition in Dubai. Young people from Morocco and Bahrain also participated in the March of the Living. (TOI / VFI News)

***International Sex Trafficking Operation Broken Open by Israel Police;*** Israel Police on Wednesday, April 19, raided the homes of 15 people suspected of involvement in an international sex trafficking ring. Over NIS 400,000 in cash and foreign currencies was seized during the raid along with five vehicles that were allegedly used as part of the trafficking operation. The suspects have been the target of an undercover investigation carried out by Lachish District police forces over the last few months along with the Israel Tax Authority and the Southern District Prosecutor’s Office after the suspicion arose that they were involved in the network. The network uncovered by the investigation would allegedly operate to bring women into Israel from abroad, with a focus on women from the former USSR. Once in Israel, they would be pimped out for sexual services. According to police, the network was headed by four suspects, men and women between the ages of 30 and 59, who employed other suspects in an organized manner, with positions such as financial management personnel, hotel owners to provide women housing, drivers to bring the women to their “clients,” and employees who would “market” the women and maintain relationships with criminal groups abroad to locate potential victims for their scheme. As part of the investigation, the Lachish District officers said they uncovered the method by which women would be pimped out to clients. Upon their arrival in Israel, each woman would be professionally photographed, and she would be assigned a nickname and price tag for various services that clients could purchase. From there, her details would be distributed among the customer base through a variety of different platforms. (JPost / VFI News)

***Police Remove Hamas Banner from Temple Mount;*** Police officers ascended the Temple Mount before dawn Wednesday, April 19, and removed a pro-Hamas banner inciting violence that had been hung at the holy site. On Tuesday, Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir (Otzma Yehudit) demanded police explain why the banner had not yet been removed. The banner read: "Our existence is meaningless if we do not seek out Al-Aqsa. The resistance has not yet had its final word." Early Wednesday morning, at Ben-Gvir's request, police officers entered the Temple Mount and removed the banner, while hundreds of Arabs protested the move. Carrying the flag of Hamas or signs containing incitement to violence on the Temple Mount is illegal and can lead to the offender being arrested and barred from the mount. However, police often refrain from arresting violators when tens or even hundreds of thousands of Muslim worshippers are on the Temple Mount at one time. (INN / VFI News)

***US State Department Offers \$7 Million Reward for Hezbollah Leader;*** The US State Department Tuesday, April 18, announced a \$7 million reward for information leading to the arrest of Ibrahim Aqil, a senior member of the Hezbollah terrorist organization. "Ibrahim Aqil, also known as Tahsin, serves on Hezbollah’s highest military body, the Jihad Council," the State Department said in its announcement. "During the 1980s, Aqil was a principal member of Islamic Jihad Organization—Hezbollah’s terrorist cell—that claimed the bombings of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in April 1983, which killed 63 people, and the U.S. Marine barracks in October 1983, which killed 241 U.S. personnel." In 2021, the US Treasury Department stated that Aqil “played a vital role in Hezbollah’s military campaign in Syria by aiding Hezbollah fighters and pro-Syrian regime troops against Syrian opposition forces in battles inside Syria."

Aqil has also been linked to the late Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force Commander General Qassem Soleimani. (INN / VFI News)

***Palestinian Woman Stabs Israeli in Gush Etzion, Is Shot by Soldiers;*** An Israeli man was hurt in a stabbing attack at the Gush Etzion Junction south of Jerusalem in the West Bank on Monday evening, April 17, the military and medics said. The Israel Defense Forces said the female Palestinian assailant was shot after carrying out the attack. She was taken to a hospital in Jerusalem, although her condition was not immediately clear. Footage from the scene showed the suspected attacker lying on the ground next to a knife. The Magen David Adom ambulance service said a 36-year-old man was treated in moderate condition after being stabbed by the Palestinian woman. He was taken by MDA to the Hadassah Ein Kerem hospital in Jerusalem, where medical officials there described his condition as moderate but stable. At least 92 Palestinians have been killed since the beginning of the year, most of them while carrying out attacks or during clashes with security forces, but some were uninvolved civilians and others were killed under circumstances that are being investigated. Palestinian attacks in Israel and the West Bank have left 19 people dead since the beginning of the year. (TOI / VFI News)

***Two Men Hurt in Terror Shooting in East Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah;*** Two Israeli men were shot and wounded in a terror attack in East Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood on Tuesday morning, April 18, police and medics said. The Magen David Adom ambulance service said its medics treated the two victims, aged 50 and 48, at the scene in moderate condition and took them to hospitals in the capital. The Shaare Zedek and Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus medical centers said the pair were listed in stable condition. Police said officers were at the scene, on Pierre Van Paassen Street, investigating the shooting and searching for the terrorist, who fled. The weapon apparently used in the attack, a makeshift "Carlo" submachine gun, was found by officers nearby, police said. The victims were in a car when they came under fire and according to Hebrew-language media reports; they were heading to morning prayers at the Tomb of Simeon the Just, in Sheikh Jarrah. The neighborhood, parts of which were historically known as Shimon Hatzadik, has become one of Jerusalem's tensest in recent years. "Large police forces of the Jerusalem District continue to carry out extensive searches in the area and in more distant areas," police said in a statement several hours after the attack, adding that officers, Special Forces, a canine unit, and a police helicopter were participating in the manhunt for the terrorist. (TOI / VFI News)

***3 Islamic Jihad Terrorists Planning Attack Arrested in Jenin;*** Three wanted Islamic Jihad terrorists who were planning to carry out a terrorist attack were arrested in Jenin Tuesday afternoon, April 18. IDF forces from the Duvdevan Unit working in conjunction with the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) and the Border Police carried out the operation to apprehend the terrorists. During the operation, Israeli forces came under fire from terrorists. Six Arabs were injured in the ensuing firefight, according to the Palestinian Authority Health Ministry. No Israeli security personnel was injured during the operation. The three Islamic Jihad terrorists taken into custody have been identified as Aa Kareem Ala Adin Ibrahim Ahmad, Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad Jaradat, and Amjad Muhammad Ahmad Jaradat. Furthermore, the forces confiscated a vehicle belonging to one of the wanted suspects. The terrorist operatives were recently involved in extensive terrorist activity. The terrorist operatives were engaged in shooting attacks, explosive devices, and the promotion of additional terror attacks. (INN / VFI News)

***Surprising Guest: Iranian Crown Prince to Visit Israel;*** Renewing the relationship between the Iranian people and the people of Israel, Intelligence Minister Gila Gamliel (Likud) will host the Crown Prince of Iran, Reza Pahlavi, the son of the Shah, and the most senior Iranian personality to ever pay a public visit to Israel. Minister Gamliel will host Pahlavi in Israel this week, with the aim of creating a bridge between Israel and the Iranian people and expressing joint opposition to the Ayatollah regime. The heir to the throne promotes discourse on the human rights situation in Iran and supports a democratic

Iranian leadership. The Crown Prince will be visiting Israel with the aim of expressing solidarity with the citizens of Israel in light of the attacks by terrorist organizations operating under the auspices of Iran, renewing the relationship between the nations and building an economic relationship with a focus on water technologies. In addition, the Crown Prince will be honoring the victims of the Holocaust as part of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day events, and denouncing the antisemitism and Holocaust denial of the Ayatollah regime. Crown Prince Pahlavi said, "Millions of my compatriots still remember living alongside their Jewish-Iranian friends and neighbors before the Islamic Revolution tore the fabric of our society apart. They reject the regime's murderous anti-Israel and anti-Semitic policies and long for cultural, scientific, and economic exchanges with Israel. A democratic Iran will seek to renew its ties with Israel and our Arab neighbors. In my opinion, that day is closer than ever." (INN / VFI News)

***President Herzog Lands in Poland to Mark 80 Years Since the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising;*** President Isaac Herzog arrived in Poland on Wednesday morning, April 19, ahead of official state ceremonies marking the 80th anniversary of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The main event will take place in the square by the 1948 Rapoport memorial to the heroes of the revolt, built on the site of the former ghetto from where Polish Jews were transported to the gas chambers. The annual ceremony dates back 75 years and commemorates the Jewish armed resistance against the Nazis that began on April 19 and lasted almost a full month until the ghetto was burned to the ground on May 16. The Nazis dramatically symbolized their victory by blowing up Warsaw's Great Synagogue. This year, the event has been significantly expanded to include the presidents of Israel, Poland, and Germany. Herzog, along with his German and Polish counterparts, Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Andrzej Duda, respectively, will deliver speeches. Herzog will also hold bilateral meetings with Steinmeier and Duda. The three leaders will then participate in a second ceremony at the Nozyk Synagogue, which was completed in 1902 and is the only synagogue in Warsaw to have survived World War II. They will unveil a plaque to honor the president's grandfather Yitzhak HaLevi Herzog, who was chief rabbi of Ireland, Mandatory Palestine, and then the first chief rabbi of the State of Israel. He visited the Nozyk Synagogue in 1946, just one year after the war's end. (JPost / VFI News)

***Judicial Reforms Negotiations Focus on Judicial Selection Committee;*** Teams from the coalition and opposition parties Yesh Atid and National Unity held their first marathon negotiating session over the content of the government's judicial reform on Monday, April 17, at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Jerusalem. The session, which lasted for approximately six hours, focused on Basic Law: The Judiciary and on the method of selecting judges, according to a statement by the President's Office. The talks were held in a "positive, professional and serious atmosphere," and the sides were "committed to continuing the negotiation process in order to arrive at an agreement." The members of the negotiating teams, as well as the President's Office, remained tight-lipped about the content of the meetings and the proposals that were laid on the table. The talks were held at the Waldorf Astoria instead of the President's Residence, reportedly because the latter is being prepared for Independence Day events. Yesh Atid and National Unity said in a joint statement after the meeting that "We will continue to do everything possible to arrive at constitutive legislation that will strengthen Israeli democracy and the State of Israel." A member of the Likud team, MK Hanoch Milwidsky, wrote on Twitter that the "optimism that I expressed after the previous discussion, believe it or not, still exists. There is a lot to work on, but there are also those to work with." (JPost / VFI News)

***ESA's JUICE Mission to Jupiter with Israeli Tech Launches Successfully;*** The European Space Agency's (ESA) JUICE mission launched successfully on Friday, April 14, from the European spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana after its originally-planned launch on Thursday was postponed because of poor weather. The JUICE (Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer) mission is the ESA's biggest mission ever, and Israel's participation is funded by the Israel Space Agency, which falls under the auspices of the Science and

Technology Ministry. This is the first time that Israeli technology is traveling to another planet. The probe was launched on an Ariane 5 rocket on its 900-million-kilometer journey, first doing a flyby of Venus and then three flybys of Earth. This will help the probe build up momentum for a slingshot ride to Jupiter. It is expected to arrive at Jupiter in July 2031, when it will begin its dedicated four-year mission: Circling the largest planet in the solar system nearly 100 times while studying its atmosphere as well as exploring three of its most important moons, Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa. Joining the JUICE mission is a major experiment led by Prof. Yohai Kaspi and Dr. Eli Galanti from Weizmann that will analyze Jupiter's atmosphere. "What we're doing is sending a radio beam from the spacecraft to Earth and when it goes through the atmosphere, it gets distorted which lets us get temperature readings," Kaspi told Israeli media. "We will build a 3D map of Jupiter's temperature, which no one has ever done before," he said, noting that the JUICE mission will be complementary to the data gleaned from Juno. (JPost / VFI News)



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