

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update June 29, 2023 (Tamuz 10, 5783)

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A golden menorah with seven branches and a bottle of Anointing Oil. The bottle is labeled "Anointing Oil" and features a picture of a person. The items are set against a white background within a dashed red border.

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Rocket from Jenin Fired at Israel, Lands in Palestinian Territory; A rocket was launched on Monday morning, June 26, at Israel from the Jenin area but exploded in Palestinian territory without hitting any Israelis or Israeli locations. According to the IDF, the rocket did not pose a threat to Israeli communities in the area, though it was unclear if this was because it lacked the range to strike them or because the rocket had other issues. Israeli security forces arrived at the scene and conducted searches in the area, but did not yet report any arrests. The IDF said that the incident is under review, but did not give much specific information about who carried it out or how similar future incidents would be prevented. The new situation occurs after last week's drastic escalation in terror from the Palestinian side, use of force by the IDF, and revenge attacks by Jewish West Bank residents. It also comes after a recent warning by Shin Bet Director Ronen Bar that Palestinian terrorists were making renewed efforts to acquire rockets in the West Bank and fire them on Israel. If such terror groups succeeded, it could represent a whole new front for rocket defense, since presently Israel's rocket defense is deployed to defend against rockets from Lebanon or Gaza. (JPost / VFI News)

Top Hamas Official: We Are Determined to Escalate The Attacks in All Areas; Khaled Mashaal, the leader of the Hamas terrorist organization abroad, said on Thursday, June 22, that "the victorious and escalating (armed) resistance in all of our occupied Palestinian lands, and in particular in our West Bank, is what forced the change in the rules of the game against the occupation and its hordes of settlers." Mashaal added that "this blessed path", meaning the terrorist attacks, is the most effective way to realize the legitimate aspirations for the liberation of "Palestine", the return of the refugees, and the liberation of Jerusalem, since the other paths, a reference to the diplomatic process, only resulted in the loss of land and the expansion of "settlements". The Hamas leader further said that the improvement in the quality of the attacks and their professional execution, in a way that caused many losses on the Israeli side and a state of

fear among soldiers and “settlers”, indicates the seriousness of the leadership of the Palestinian resistance organizations to escalate the number and quality of the attacks in all sectors. Mashaal pointed out that “we need to strengthen unity and partnership among the Palestinian organizations in Palestine and abroad, and mobilize the Arab world and the international community against Israel.” (INN / VFI News)

Israeli Security Guard Injured in West Bank Checkpoint Terror Shooting; A security guard and another man were lightly injured after being shot at the Kalandiya checkpoint in a terror attack near the entrance to Jerusalem early Saturday morning, June 24. The attacker was shot dead by security forces at the scene. Israeli police forces were called onto the scene, and the two injured were evacuated by medical personnel to Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital. The attacker reportedly arrived at the checkpoint on foot from the West Bank carrying an M-16 rifle and then fired at security forces in the area. Police confiscated the rifle used in the shooting. The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades took responsibility for the incident, according to Israeli media. "Tonight at 02:42 a report was received at MDA's 101 emergency center in the Jerusalem area, about a shooting at the Kalandiya checkpoint," MDA spokesman Zachi Heller said. "MDA medics provided medical treatment and evacuated two young men aged 22 and 24 to Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital in good condition. The terrorist was killed." (JPost / VFI News)

Survey: 48% of Israelis Support Military Operation in Judea and Samaria; Nearly half of Israelis support launching a large-scale military operation in Judea and Samaria following recent deadly terrorist attacks, according to a new poll conducted by Panels Politics Institute Director Dr. Menachem Lazar for Jewish media. In response to the question of whether following the recent terrorist attacks Israel should launch a large-scale military operation in Judea and Samaria, the answers were: 48% - "yes", 26% - "no", and 26% - "I don't know". 71% of respondents who voted for parties in the current coalition supported a military operation, while only 9% of coalition voters said no. 20% said that they did not know. Among respondents who voted for opposition parties, support for a military operation drops to 29%, while 39% oppose such an operation and 32% responded that they do not know. 500 participants took part in the online survey, which has a margin of error of 4.3%. (INN / VFI News)

Mossad Helped Crack Iran Terror Cell in Cyprus that Planned Attacks Against Jews; The Mossad helped Cyprus crack an Iranian terror cell, according to sources on Sunday, June 25. The spy agency said that it had assisted Cyprus with thwarting Iran's plot to solve the puzzle of the underlying crimes and method of operation of the terror organization involved. "Israel praises the thwarting of an Iranian terrorist attack on Cyprus's territory against Israeli targets," the Prime Minister's Office stated. "Israel acts in a variety of ways everywhere to defend Jews and Israelis, and will continue to act to cut off Iranian terror wherever it raises its head, including in Iran, the chief spreader of terror in the world." Earlier Sunday, Cypriot media reported that Cyprus thwarted a planned Iranian terrorist attack on Jews on the island state. That initial report said that the IRGC planned the attack, which was stopped in cooperation between Cyprus and Western partners, which named the US and Israel as among the likely partners. Jerusalem and Nicosia have worked together to foil Iranian plots to attack Israelis in the past. In 2021, they arrested a Russian-Azerbaijani hitman hired by the IRGC to kill Israeli businessmen in Cyprus. Billionaire Teddy Sagi, among others, was evacuated to Israel at the time. (JPost / VFI News)

Israel to Reprimand Ukraine Envoy for Calling Russia War Policy 'Immoral'; The Foreign Ministry plans to summon Ukrainian Ambassador to Israel Yevgen Kornichuk for a reprimand after the embassy released a strong statement opposing Israel's policy on the war in his country. Kornichuk's statements came after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the reasons Israel does not provide military aid to Ukraine in an interview with Israeli media last week. Netanyahu touted Israeli humanitarian aid to Ukraine and said it's important for Israel to be able to continue coordination with Russia to strike Iranian targets in Syria. In light of cooperation between Russia and Iran, Netanyahu expressed “concerns

that any systems that we give to Ukraine would be used against us because they could fall into Iranian hands and be used against us.” Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said in a briefing that Israel sent an unprecedented amount, NIS 80 million, to Ukraine last year and has an even bigger budget to aid Kyiv this year. In addition, Cohen said that the Israeli missile warning system being tested in Kyiv will save Ukrainian civilians’ lives. Kornichuk said that Israel “not providing [Ukraine] with weapons is just a decision to please the Russians.” The Ukrainian Embassy to Israel also released a strong statement against Israeli policy to its Facebook page on Sunday, June 25, following instructions from Kyiv. The statement said there was a “near absence of Israeli humanitarian assistance to Ukraine” in the first half of this year and that Foreign Minister Eli Cohen’s visit to Kyiv in February was “fruitless.” It also specifically criticized Netanyahu’s comments during the interview. (JPost / VFI News)

Far-Right Lehava Activists, Israel Police Clash at Christian Event in Jerusalem; Clashes broke out as Israeli Police attempted to prevent Lehava activists from breaking into a Christian concert held in Jerusalem on Thursday evening, June 22, according to a police statement. One of the activists of the far-right organization was arrested on suspicion of attacking a police officer. Dozens of Orthodox Jews attempted to interrupt the event and rioted, according to the police. The police stated that it would continue to allow the freedom of expression and protest according to the law, but won't allow the violation of public order and riots. The activists were accompanied by Jerusalem deputy mayor Aryeh King and Lehava founder Bentzi Gopstein, according to Israeli media. Lehava had called for a protest against the "missionary" event several days in advance. The concert's invitation by the Association for Messianic Jews stated: "We invite you to an unforgettable experience, where we will lift up our voice with one voice and in praise and worship of our lord Jesus Christ to the glory of God the Father." "Throughout history, the mission hunted Jewish souls and fought against the people of Israel. The missionary conference was designed to convert Jews from their religion and there is no place for that in Jerusalem. In a democracy, I must come and demonstrate," Gopstein stated, according to Israeli media. (JPost / VFI News)

Tel Aviv University Scholar Wins Prestigious US Prize for Cancer Research; A Tel Aviv University scholar won a prestigious award for his work in the field of cancer research, the university announced Monday, June 26. Professor Isaac P. Witz, TAU’s Shmunis School of Biomedicine and Cancer Research, was chosen by the prize selection committee of the National Foundation for Cancer Research (NFCR) in the US to receive the prestigious Szent-Györgyi Prize for his groundbreaking scientific contributions. His research established that humoral immune factors localized in the TME exert pivotal roles in various manifestations of anti-tumor immune responses. These seminal findings laid the groundwork for certain aspects of contemporary life-saving immunotherapies, ultimately benefiting cancer patients and advancing scientific progress toward finding cures for cancer. Witz currently serves as Professor Emeritus at Tel Aviv University and heads the Laboratory of Tumor Microenvironment & Metastasis Research at The Shmunis School of Biomedicine and Cancer Research, George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences. Witz will receive the award at a ceremony scheduled for October 21, 2023, at The National Press Club in Washington, D.C. (JPost / VFI News)

Four Dead in West Bank Shooting Attack, Hamas Claims Responsibility; Four Israelis were killed and another four were wounded in a shooting attack by two terrorists at a gas station outside of the West Bank settlement of Eli on Tuesday afternoon, June 20. Two terrorists entered a restaurant next to the gas station and shot several people there before going to the gas station and shooting another person. At that point, an armed civilian shot and killed one of them and the other fled. Shin Bet, IDF, and Border Police forces shot and killed the second terrorist after locating him and attempting to arrest him a short time later. They tracked him as he tried to escape and eventually found his car abandoned, according to a joint statement. When he was located, they attempted to arrest him, but he resisted arrest and was killed, the statement said. The terrorist who was killed at the gas station was identified as Muhannad Shahada, from

the village of Orif, near Nablus, in the West Bank. One of the victims was identified as Elisha Antman, an 18-year-old resident of the town of Eli. Another was identified as Harel Masoud, a 21-year-old resident of Yad Binyamin. A third was later identified as Ofer Feirman, another Eli resident aged 63. The fourth was identified as Nachman Shmuel Mordoff, 17, a resident of Achiya. Initial intelligence reports suggested a strong likelihood that the terrorists were associated with Hamas, IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Daniel Hagari said. A short time later, a Hamas official said the gunmen belonged to Hamas's military wing, the Izzadin al-Qassam brigades. The attack was in response to the IDF operation on Monday in Jenin, he told Arabian media. (JPost /VFI News)

7 IDF Soldiers Wounded in Jenin Ambush of Armored Vehicle; Two IDF soldiers and five Border Police officers were wounded in Jenin on Monday, June 19, during a firefight that lasted hours and included the ambush of an armored military vehicle. The plan was to arrest two terror operatives: one from Hamas and one from Islamic Jihad. Palestinian reports said five Palestinians were killed in the clashes and 28 were wounded, some in serious conditions. The Israeli forces were wounded when an improvised explosive device (IED) struck their armored vehicle. One Border Police officer was in moderate to serious condition and was evacuated to the Emek Medical Center in Afula, while the others, with wounds ranging from light to moderate, were evacuated to the Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa. Five to seven IDF vehicles were stuck in the area for several hours until they could be successfully extracted, the army said. IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Daniel Hagari said the IDF used a mix of helicopters, drones, and reinforcements to establish control over the area. In the middle of the operation, the IDF used a helicopter to fire a missile at an open area to allow for extraction. This was the first time the IDF has fired a missile from a helicopter in the West Bank in around 20 years. Israel Police chief Kobi Shabtai, Border Police commander Amir Cohen and the commander of West Bank police district Barak Mordechai visited the wounded soldiers, "We succeeded in arresting the wanted suspects. We are determined to recover and return to operation," the wounded officers told them. (JPost / VFI News)

Iran Praises Palestinian 'Resistance' in Meetings with Hamas, Islamic Jihad Leaders; The leaders of Palestinian terror groups Islamic Jihad and Hamas held talks Monday, June 19, with top Iranian officials in Tehran as deadly violence flared in the West Bank. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi received Islamic Jihad chief Ziad Nakhleh while Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh held talks with Ali Akbar Ahmadian, the newly-appointed secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), ahead of a meeting with other top officials. "The most efficient way to end the more than 75 years of occupation of Palestine is resistance," Ahmadian told Haniyeh, according to media close to the SNSC. Nakhleh has been in Iran since last week and has met top Iranian officials, including Raisi and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. On Monday, Raisi told Nakhleh that Israel was seeking to normalize ties with more Arab and Muslim countries "to discourage young Palestinians from [seeking to] liberate the occupied territories," the president's office said in a statement, as he hailed Palestinian "resistance" against Israel. (TOI / VFI News)

Gallant: Israel's Cutting Edge Tech Is Best Defense from Iran, Other Enemies; Israel's cutting-edge technology is the best defense from threats from Iran and its other enemies, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said on Monday, June 19. Speaking at the Paris Air Show, he said "Israel's ability to face threats is determined by the dedicated individuals who tirelessly work to develop state-of-the-art technology. This ongoing and highly challenging battle of intellect mostly takes place behind the scenes." He added that "in recent years, this intellectual contest has been gaining momentum, and I can confidently affirm that Israel surpasses its adversaries in both defensive and offensive capabilities." Still, the defense minister warned that "Iran is closer than ever to gaining military-nuclear capabilities, and it is conducting a war of attrition against us by engaging in proxy terrorism. This clear strategy aims to destabilize not only the region but also the world. "In response to Iran's efforts, the Israeli defense establishment is working to prevent Iran

from becoming a nuclear power, utilizing all the resources at our disposal,” said Gallant. (JPost / VFI News)

Russia Says Regional Free Trade Pact with Iran Possible by Year-End; A free trade zone agreement between Iran, Russia, and several countries that cover the vast Eurasian region spreading from the borders of Eastern Europe to Western China is possible by the end of the year, Russian media reported on Monday, June 19. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk told Russian state media in an interview that talks between the Eurasian Economic Union - which comprises Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia - and Iran are in their final stages. Russia started swapping oil products with Iran and in March, Tehran said it counts on "huge volumes" of both oil and gas swaps with Moscow. "We are moving forward," Overchuk said. "We very much hope that such an agreement can be signed by the end of the year." Both the region and Iran have taken on additional significance for the Kremlin after Western sanctions over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine limited Russia's foreign trade routes and forced it to look for markets outside Europe. However, despite tighter ties between Moscow and Tehran since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 and began big purchases of Iranian-made drones to attack the country, trade between the two markets has grown only moderately. (JPost / VFI News)

'We Cannot Cope Alone': Ukraine's First Lady Hopes for Medical Ties with Israel; Ukraine's First Lady Olena Zelenska, together with her Israeli counterpart, Michal Herzog, met with a range of medical and psychological experts in Israel on Monday, June 19, as part of Zelenska's ongoing tour of Israel. Zelenska, the wife of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, has been traveling the world and meeting world leaders to draw humanitarian support for the country since the beginning of the Russian invasion in early 2022. Israel has sent repeated waves of humanitarian and medical aid to Ukraine but has been criticized by Kyiv for not sending asked-for military assistance. The Ukrainian first lady began her day visiting Sheba Medical Hospital, where she expressed hope for future cooperation between Ukrainian and Israeli medical experts. "We need programs that support mental health and assist in the rehabilitation of injured citizens, including children, adults, and the elderly. Our healthcare system cannot cope alone," she said. "The State of Israel is a role model for us; unfortunately, you have rich experience in this area," Zelenska said, according to a statement from the president's office. "Nevertheless your country still succeeds to thrive and survive, even under incessant attacks. Yes, we are resilient, but resilience comes at a high psychological price." (TOI/VFI News)

US Leads 27 Nations in Castigating an Anti-Israel UN Commission; The United States issued a joint statement Tuesday, June 20, on behalf of 27 countries, saying they are "deeply concerned" about a United Nations commission accused of bias against Israel and populated with members with histories of antisemitism. The U.N. Commission of Inquiry investigating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is delivering its latest report to the U.N. Human Rights Council today in Geneva. The Human Rights Council created the three-person commission in 2021 following an 11-day conflict ("Operation Guardian of the Walls") between Israel and terrorist groups in Gaza. The commission was given a unique open-ended mandate: It is charged with investigating any Israeli human rights violations both inside and outside the country's sovereign territory. Michèle Taylor, U.S. ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva, said in the joint statement that the commission's mandate, "with no sunset clause, end date, or clear limitations connected to the escalation in May 2021," led to many of the council's members expressing "fundamental concerns" when the resolution creating the commission came up for adoption. "We believe the nature of this COI [commission of inquiry] is further demonstration of long-standing, disproportionate attention given to Israel in the council, and must stop" the statement reads. The signatories to the joint statement include a diverse geographical group. Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Eswatini, Fiji, Guatemala, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Liberia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, North

Macedonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Togo, and the United Kingdom joined Washington in signing on. (I365N / VFI News)

Tel Aviv Ranked as World's Happiest City; Tel Aviv is the happiest city in the world, according to a ranking by TheTravel blog published on last week. TheTravel cited the White City's "rich cultural heritage, kind people, and abundance of food, shopping, and learning," noting that Tel Aviv has become "a global hot spot for spring break and vacationing as a whole." The travel blog also noted Tel Aviv's progressive ideologies as a reason for its high ranking, pointing to the large LGBTQ community in the city and the draw for LGBTQ visitors. Tel Aviv was followed by Madrid, Fremont, San Jose, Stockholm, Toronto, Amsterdam, Reykjavík, Bergen, and Copenhagen on the list. The @Israel Twitter account run by the Foreign Ministry welcomed the ranking, tweeting "Maybe it's the sun, maybe it's the people (or maybe its the coffee). Who knows? In any case, Tel Aviv was chosen as the happiest city in the World. Thanks @TheTravel_com_!" Israel ranked fourth in the 2022 World Happiness Report by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, although it ranked low on some of the factors in the report, including "experiences of calmness" where it ranked second to last. (JPost /VFI News)



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