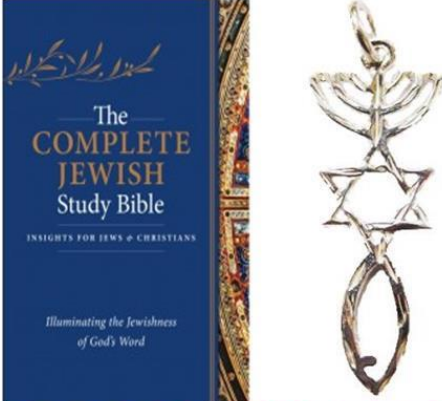


# ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 7, 2023 (Elul 21, 5783)***

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***Israeli Killed, Six Injured in Terror Attack Near Modi'in;*** An off-duty Israeli soldier, Maksym Molchanov, was killed and six others, including civilians, were injured on Thursday morning, August 31, when a Palestinian terrorist rammed them with a truck at the Maccabim Crossing along Route 443, close to the central city of Modi'in. Four soldiers, all in their 20s, were treated by Magen David Adom emergency medical personnel before being evacuated to the hospital. The off-duty soldier was in critical condition and later succumbed to his wounds; another one was seriously hurt and two others suffered minor injuries. A Palestinian teenager was also lightly injured and an Israeli couple in their 20s sustained mild injuries when their car was struck by the terrorist, according to MDA. There were three soldiers among the victims, the army said. The terrorist fled the scene but was tracked down and neutralized at the Hashmonaim Crossing some 10 kilometers (6 miles) away, according to the Israel Police. The Defense Ministry said its security guards operating the Hashmonaim checkpoint received a description of the terrorist's truck from the IDF moments after the attack, and subsequently opened fire at the vehicle after identifying the assailant. Israel Police Deputy Commissioner Avi Biton said the terrorist was a 41-year-old Palestinian who was known to security forces and had a work permit to enter Israel. (I365N /VFI News)

***Minister Yoav Gallant: The State of Israel Is Under Terrorist Attack Against Civilians;*** Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on Thursday evening, August 31, held an assessment of the situation with the IDF Chief of Staff, the head of the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet), and the senior officers in the IDF shortly after the terrorist attack in Maccabim. "The State of Israel is under terrorist attack against civilians, mainly on the roads, and against the IDF soldiers who are guarding them on the roads and in the towns," Gallant said. He added, "We will reach every terrorist and settle the score with him – anyone who goes out to harm Israel, everyone who sends him, will end their life in the cemetery or in prison on a short schedule as we

have done until today. We know to protect our citizens and win this campaign as well." The Chief of Staff referred to the operational situation following the recent attacks and said, "We are increasing countermeasures in Judea and Samaria, and we will draw conclusions immediately from the initial inquiry." In the last week, there has been an increase in terrorist attacks. Overnight Wednesday, an Israeli officer and three soldiers were wounded during an operation to secure entry for civilians to the Joseph's Tomb compound in Shechem (Nablus). An improvised explosive device was set off as the soldiers passed by. Nablus Battalion, part of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, reportedly claimed responsibility. Hours earlier, an Israeli man was moderately wounded in a stabbing at the Shivtei Yisrael light-rail stop outside Jerusalem's Old City. Separately, on Wednesday evening, two Israeli bus drivers were slightly injured when their vehicles were stoned by Palestinians on a highway in western Samaria. (INN / VFI News)

***Israel Arrests Hamas Top Terrorists After IDF Enters Jenin Refugee Camp;*** Gunshots were heard as Israeli forces were operating inside the Jenin refugee camp, the IDF said on Monday morning, September 4, with Israeli reports saying clashes erupted between the forces and armed Palestinians. Three Palestinians affiliated with Hamas were arrested, identified by security forces as Abdallah Hassan Muhammad Zubah, Vered Asherif, and Mutazben Jaitza. During the arrests, multiple Palestinians tried to flee the building and were hit by IDF fire, with no IDF confirmation about the condition of those who were hit. IDF forces were also attacked by gunfire and stone-throwing and returned fire. All three Hamas terrorists had been involved in a variety of terror attacks and operations. Security forces confiscated various Palestinian weapons and turned over the three Hamas terrorists for interrogation by the Shin Bet. The operation was not planned far in advance. It did not take place during the overnight hours as most raids do, because the specific intelligence leading to the operation only came forward shortly before the operation. Earlier on Monday, the IDF said that Israeli forces arrested 16 Palestinian terror suspects in an overnight raid of cities and villages in Judea and Samaria. Two suspected of being involved in an attack were arrested in the village of Abu Dis. In addition, IDF, Shin Bet, and Border Police personnel confiscated stolen military equipment, including ammunition and M-16 rifle parts, in searches conducted in several villages. (JPost /VFI News)

***Nasrallah Meets Hamas, PIJ to Unite Terror Front Against Israel;*** Hezbollah head Hassan Nasrallah met with the secretary-general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Ziyad al-Nakhalah and the deputy head of the Political Bureau of Hamas, Saleh Al-Arouri, reports in Lebanon said on Saturday, September 2. The meeting brings together key terror leaders who are all backed by Iran. Reports in pro-Iran media noted that the groups discussed the "firm position" of the "forces of the resistance axis in confronting the Zionist enemy." Iran currently is pursuing a policy of "uniting" various fronts against Israel to fight in multiple arenas, meaning it wants to create provocations in Lebanon and also move weapons through Syria and enflame Judea and Samaria. The reports from Lebanon said that the meeting included discussions of "political developments especially in Palestine, with a joint assessment of the situation in Judea and Samaria and the escalation of resistance movement there and the recent Israeli threats." Meanwhile, a violent disturbance, with the participation of more than a hundred Palestinian Arab rioters, erupted on Friday along the area of the border fence in the Gaza Strip. The rioters threw explosive devices at the fence and several attempts to cross the fence were detected and thwarted by IDF soldiers operating in the area. (JPost / VFI News)

***Israel to Build New Fence along Jordan Border to Stem Iranian Weapons Smuggling;*** Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that Israel will build a new border fence along the border with Jordan, in a social media post on Sunday evening, September 3. "We erected a fence on our southern border (Egypt) and stopped the infiltration from there into Israel. We thereby stopped over a million infiltrators from Africa, which would have destroyed our country," wrote Netanyahu. "Now we will build a fence on our eastern border (Jordan) and ensure that there will be no infiltration from there either. We will protect

our borders - we will protect our country!" Netanyahu's announcement came a few days after it was cleared for publication that the IDF had thwarted an attempt to smuggle Iranian-produced explosives from Jordan to Israel in July. At the end of July, the IDF announced that it had thwarted an "unusual" weapons smuggling attempt in the Jordan Valley near Ashdot Yaakov. It is estimated that the explosives were intended for terrorist organizations in Judea and Samaria. (JPost / VFI News)

***Achievement for Israel: UN Renews Mandate of Lebanon Peacekeeping Force;*** French media reported that the United Nations Security Council on Thursday, August 31, renewed the mandate for UNIFIL, its peacekeeping force in Lebanon, for another year after tense debate around the troops' freedom of movement. The UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which has been in place since 1978, acts as a buffer between Lebanon and Israel and operates near the border. France had drafted a resolution to extend the peacekeeping mission for another year, but the United States and the United Arab Emirates argued it weakened some language on the ability of UN troops to move freely. Thursday's resolution passed with 13 votes in favor and Russia and China abstaining, and keeps the force in place until August 31, 2024. The mandate is largely identical to last year's agreement on allowing freedom of movement for the approximately 10,000 peacekeepers stationed in the country, a point which has been contested both by the Lebanese government and the Hezbollah terrorist organization. US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said that "the United States is pleased to vote yes on the UNIFIL mandate." Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, welcomed the resolution as well. (INN /VFI News)

***Iranian Weightlifter Given Lifetime Ban After Shaking Hands with Israeli Competitor;*** Mostafa Rajaei, in his 40s, shook hands with Israeli weightlifter Maksim Svirsky on Saturday, August 26, after they both stood on the podium at a World Masters championship in Wieliczka, Poland, and authorities in the Islamic Republic gave him a lifetime ban. 'The weightlifting federation bans athlete Mostafa Rajaei for life from entering all sports facilities in the country and dismisses the head of the delegation for the competition, Hamid Salehinia,' the body announced in a statement cited by state media. Iran does not recognize Israel, its sworn enemy, and prohibits all contact between Iranian and Israeli athletes. According to an Iranian state media report, Rajaei 'crossed the red lines of the Islamic Republic' at the event where the Iranian delegation had been 'sent with the support of the federation'. Rajaei is a former member of the Iranian national team and represented his country at the Asian Weightlifting Championships in 2015 in Thailand. In 2021, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged athletes 'not to shake hands with a representative of the (Israeli) criminal regime to obtain a medal'. (DM / VFI News)

***Netanyahu: Fiber Optics May Link Israel, Greece, Cyprus to Arab World;*** Israel could be part of regional and European solutions to fiber optics and natural gas linked to the Arab world, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said after landing in Cyprus on Sunday, September 3, for a trilateral meeting that will also include Greece. "We have the possibility of making real the idea of an Asia-Middle East-Europe corridor, especially infrastructure" that would be the extension of the Abraham Accords, Netanyahu said during a joint press event with Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides. Such a plan could also involve countries with which Israel seeks to normalize ties, Netanyahu said. Those words hinted at the possibility that such a deal could also involve Saudi Arabia. "I'm quite confident that we will have a corridor that could go through Israel, from Asia to the Arabian Peninsula to Israel to Cyprus, and from there to Europe." "An example of the most obvious one is a fiber optic connection. That's the shortest route. It's the safest route. It's the most economic route," Netanyahu said. In that vein, he said, his discussions in Cyprus will also include conversations "about various options for cooperation in natural gas. We've been very fortunate, both our countries, in discovering reserves of gas. And we're talking about how we could cooperate in this," he said. (JPost / VFI News)

***Iran Pushing Hezbollah to Launch Terror Attacks on Israel, Gallant Tells UN;*** Iran is pressing its proxy group Hezbollah to attack Israel along its northern border, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant told United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, as he urged him to ensure that the organization's peacekeeping force is empowered to monitor the situation. "The potential for escalation on the northern border is increasing following a blatant violation of Lebanon's sovereignty by Hezbollah's military build-up," Gallant said. "The UN must urgently intervene to reduce tensions by strengthening the freedom of movement of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon in the region, and implementing its mandate on the northern border," Gallant told Guterres. Gallant pointed specifically to Hezbollah's breach of Israeli territory by placing a military tent there, and the establishment of dozens of other military compounds on Israel's northern border. There is also an increase in Hezbollah patrols in that area, he said. In his conversation with Guterres, Gallant also underscored the problem of Iran's nuclear ambition and its growing involvement in financing and arming terrorism and militant attacks against Israel. He also spoke with Guterres about the importance of a UN condemnation of Iran's activities against Israel. "Israel will act against any violation of sovereignty and threat to the lives of its citizens," the defense minister said. The two men met as the United Nations Security Council was set on Wednesday, August 30, to renew the annual mandate of its 10,500-member peacekeeping force on that border, known as UNIFIL. (JPost / VFI News)

***Nasrallah Warns Israel Against Targeting Hamas Leaders in Lebanon;*** Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah warned that any Israeli assassination of a Lebanese, Palestinian, Iranian, Syrian, or any other person in Lebanese territory would "lead to a strong reaction," in response to reports that Israel could target Hamas officials in the country, on Monday evening, August 28. Nasrallah referenced recent statements by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accusing Iran of financing terrorist attacks in Judea and Samaria, stating "The Israeli enemy, in the face of the escalation of resistance ... fled to accuse Iran and to pretend that what is happening there is an Iranian plan and that the Palestinians there are tools, and this is foolishness." "Yes, the Islamic Republic supports the oppressed Palestinian people, but the resistance project is a Palestinian project." The Hezbollah leader also downplayed the threats of targeted assassinations against terrorists in the Iran-backed axis of factions in the region, saying "Were these assassinations able to shake the resistance?" "These threats do not make the resistance recede. Neither the threat nor the implementation of the threat will weaken the resistance, but will increase its determination, presence, and strength." Nasrallah also referenced efforts to renew the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), warning that there was an attempt to have UNIFIL spy for Israel because it operated in areas that IDF drones, spies, or cameras cannot reach. Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib also rejected a draft resolution to renew the mandate over the weekend. (JPost / VFI News)

***Iran Boasts New Submarines, Demands US Leave Syria;*** A new generation of Ghadir midget submarines and Fateh submarines will be made for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' navy, Iran said Monday, August 28. Tehran also slammed the "illegal presence of the US in Syria" in statements by Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Monday at a weekly briefing. Tehran's comments appear to be a warning to the US that Iran could encourage proxy groups to continue to target Americans in Syria. The Iranian Foreign Ministry says the US is the "source" of instability in Syria. Iran made many comments about the Mideast region. It boasted of working on improving ties with Bahrain and Egypt and slammed continued US sanctions. The Iranian navy is historically quite small, but Iran does operate several submarines. Iran has several Russian submarines it has used since the 1990s, according to naval expert H. I. Sutton. Iran also constructed midget submarines, which it calls the Ghadir. It also has the 157-foot Fateh class of submarines. The Iranians intend to equip the IRGC with both Ghadir and Fateh submarines, according to the report. This is supposed to expand Iran's power in the Persian Gulf. (JPost / VFI News)

***Jordan Downs Drone from Syria in Third Incident in August;*** The Jordanian army said it downed a drone heading from Syria on Monday, August 28, in the third such incident in August, while officials said an increase in weapons being smuggled across the border was raising concerns about a new Iranian-instigated threat beyond drugs. The army said in a statement that the drone was brought down in its territory but did not say what it was carrying. Officials have recently revealed weapons were being smuggled as well as narcotics by drone. Jordanian officials said the increasing use of drones carrying explosives was adding a new dimension in a relentless cross-border billion-dollar drug war the staunch US ally has long blamed on Iranian-backed militias that hold sway in southern Syria. "This is Iranian targeting of Jordan, helped by the presence of their militias near our border. It poses a security threat that goes beyond drugs," Samih Al Maitah, a former minister familiar with developments along the border said. Syria is accused by Arab governments and the West of producing the highly addictive and lucrative amphetamine Captagon and organizing its smuggling into the Gulf, with Jordan being a main transit route. (JPost / VFI News)

***Israel's Cost of Living the Highest Among OECD Countries in 2022, Data Shows;*** Israel ranked first place in a list of developed countries with the highest cost of living in 2022, data published Sunday, August 27, by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) showed. In Israel, prices were 38 percent higher than the average in OECD member countries, according to the comparative index. In second place in the ranking table was Switzerland, closely followed by Iceland, then the US in fourth place. Israel's economy is characterized by over-concentration in some sectors, like food and household goods, compared to other markets. The prices of some basic consumer goods, including milk, bread, and cheese are between 50% to 70% more expensive in Israel versus average price levels in OECD member countries. Israel was also the most expensive country in which to buy a home in the European region in 2022, according to a new report by financial advisory company Deloitte. Furthermore, according to a survey published by the Israel Democracy Institute earlier this year, the Israeli public is mostly concerned about the high cost of living, with two-thirds of respondents thinking food prices are the most significant factor, around half blaming housing costs, and 29% indirect taxation. (TOI / VFI News)

***Israeli Firm Gets FDA Approval for Rectum Shield that Blocks Radiation;*** BioProtect Ltd., an Israeli medical devices manufacturer, has recently received FDA clearance for their innovative BioProtect Balloon Implant System, a biodegradable product that shields the rectum from unnecessary radiation during prostate cancer treatment. When implanted and inflated, the device creates a consistent, reliable, and reproducible space between the prostate and rectum while also acting as a shield, reducing the amount of stray radiation absorbed by the latter during radiation therapy. Prostate cancer ranks as the second most prevalent cancer among American men, with over a quarter of a million new cases diagnosed in 2023, as per the American Cancer Society. By providing reliable protection to the rectum, BioProtect offers a major paradigm shift in the way the condition can be treated. "We believe that our balloon has the potential to revolutionize rectal protection from toxicity during prostate cancer radiation therapy," said Itay Barnea, CEO of BioProtect. "Not only does it provide better protection to healthy organs, it also supports dose escalation and hypofractionation, which are leading trends in prostate cancer radiation therapy." (JPost / VFI News)

***Israeli Soccer Star Signs with German Powerhouse Bayern Munich;*** Israeli soccer player Daniel Peretz has reportedly agreed to a long-term contract to join F.C. Bayern Munich, the powerhouse soccer club in Germany's top-tier Bundesliga. According to multiple news reports, he will become the first Israeli to play for the club. The 23-year-old goalkeeper has played for Maccabi Tel Aviv in the Israeli Premier League and on Israel's national team. The Tel Aviv native already holds a German passport. Peretz is expected to be the team's third-string goalie, with the chance to compete for the primary backup slot. Bayern Munich, the most decorated club in German football history, will pay a transfer fee of at least 5

million euros (around \$5.4 million) to Maccabi Tel Aviv. The soccer club, which has won the Bundesliga an unprecedented 11 consecutive times, and 33 times in total, has a rich Jewish history. Kurt Landauer, an early Jewish president of the team who survived the Holocaust and returned to helm the team again in the late 1940s, played a crucial role in building Bayern Munich into the juggernaut it is today. Lothar Matthaus, a former Bayern Munich midfielder who went on to coach Maccabi Netanya in 2008-2009, said Israeli soccer is in a strong place, “I experienced that — and that is still the case today.” (INN / VFI News)

***Israel Uncovers Massive Section of Second Temple-Era Aqueduct in Jerusalem;*** The longest continuous section of Jerusalem’s ancient aqueduct has been uncovered in Givat Hamatos, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced on Monday, August 28. The stretch of the ancient aqueduct, which measures some 300 meters (roughly 1,000 feet) in length, was discovered during archaeological excavations of the area prior to the planned development of the settlement by the Municipality of Jerusalem. The municipality plans on building schools. One of the companies involved in the Givat Hamatos development, Arim, funded the archaeological efforts. A number of ancient coins, including a coin minted at the time of the First Jewish–Roman War, were also discovered. Antiquities Authority excavation directors Dr. Ofer Shyam and Ruth Cohen note that the Jerusalem aqueduct was built to meet the ancient city’s growing water demands. "In the late days of the Second Temple, the city of Jerusalem grew significantly. The Temple had been rebuilt and the water that flowed in conduits and cisterns was no longer sufficient for the thousands of pilgrims and residents," they explain. One of the aqueducts, “the Upper Aqueduct” channeled water to the upper city, which is presently the Jewish and Armenian Quarters of the Old City. The other, “the Lower Aqueduct,” brought water to the Temple. Shyam and Cohen describe these aqueducts as being “among the largest and most complex water systems in the land of Israel – and indeed, in the ancient world.” (JPost / VFI News)



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