

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 28, 2023 (Tishrei 13, 5784)

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Palestinian Authority: Peace and Stability Only If You Accede to Our Demands; Nabil Abu Rudeineh, the spokesman for the Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas, slammed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, promising that there will be no peace or stability until the "Palestinian nation's" demands are met. In his speech, Netanyahu said, "Many decades of efforts to make peace with Arab Nations have failed because they were based on one false assumption - that the Palestinians must be appeased as a precondition to peace. The Palestinians have much to gain from new peace agreements. They should be part of these agreements, but they should not have a veto on peace." Responding to this, Abu Rudeineh said, "There will be no peace or stability in the region without placating the Palestinian nation and fulfilling its demands ... Peace will begin from Palestine and stability will begin when the Palestinian nation achieves its national and legitimate rights and an independent Palestinian nation whose capital is eastern Jerusalem is created." Meanwhile, last week, hundreds of Palestinian rioters gathered along the Gaza Strip, shortly after six Palestinians were killed in Judea and Samaria and Gaza within a 24-hour period. On Friday, September 22, a large fire broke out near Kibbutz Kissufim near the Gaza-Israel border, after Gazans flew incendiary balloons across the border, and some landed near the kibbutz. The last time an incendiary balloon sparked a fire near Gaza was two years ago. Several fires broke out again along the Gaza border on Sunday afternoon, according to Israeli media. An additional battalion will be sent to reinforce the Gaza area, the IDF Spokesperson's Unit said, following a visit by Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and continued arson attacks from the terrorist enclave. (INN / VFI News)

Netanyahu Calls on UN to Condemn Iran, Palestinian Terrorism; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on the United Nations to "condemn Iranian subversion and Palestinian terrorism against innocent civilians and to refrain from its baseless criticism of Israel," in a meeting with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly on Wednesday, September 20. Multiple

Jewish organizations have condemned the UN Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry report on Israel. American Jewish Committee (AJC) CEO Ted Deutch said in a statement, at the time of the 2022 report: “There’s no mention of Hamas. There’s no mention of terrorism. There’s no mention of the thousands of rockets that rained down on Israel with the sole intention of killing as many civilians as possible, and that there’s a failure to acknowledge that every country, including Israel, has a right to defend itself.” During the Wednesday meeting, Netanyahu requested that Guterres help change the attitude of UN institutions towards the State of Israel, saying that “it was untenable that while major changes for the better were taking place in the world and the Middle East, the UN was unaffected and remained steadfast in its hostility to Israel.” The prime minister also held several high-level meetings during his trip to New York, including a meeting earlier with US President Joe Biden, during which he told him: “I think that under your leadership, Mr. President, we can forge a historic peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia.” (JPost / VFI News)

Israel’s Ambassador to UN Detained by Security After Iran Speech; Gilad Erdan, Israel’s ambassador to the United Nations, was detained by UN security personnel on Tuesday, September 19, after he staged a protest on the floor of the General Assembly during a speech by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. Erdan was released but told American media that he was detained with “unacceptable” brutality. Erdan protested by displaying an image of Kurdish-Iranian Mahsa Amini with the caption, “Iranian women deserve freedom now!” Amini’s death resulted in a series of protests, during which at least 476 people were killed by regime security forces. “While the butcher of Tehran is speaking at the UN and is being respected by the international community, hundreds of Iranians are protesting outside, shouting and calling on the international community to wake up and help them,” Erdan said in a statement. “Other ambassadors have previously held signs for ideological reasons, including in recent sessions on the war in Ukraine, with no repercussions. I will not be deterred and will always stand up for what is right and just,” Erdan added. “So I decided to show him and remind everyone the struggle of the Iranian women, and also to remind the world and the Iranian people that they are not our enemies, that the people of Israel support and stand in solidarity with them, whatever their regime is telling them and lying to them about Israel,” he continued. (I365N / VFI News)

The Last Jew of Yemen Is Being Tortured by the Houthis and Must Be Saved – Opinion; As Jews around the world prepared for Yom Kippur, the last known Jew in Yemen was forced to observe the Holy day alone in an Islamist dungeon. For the past seven years, Levi Marhabi has been held hostage by the ruthless and fanatical Houthi rebels who control large swathes of Yemen. He is in poor health, and it is time for world Jewry to sound the alarm and press the international community to take action and bring about his release. According to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), a bipartisan federal government agency, Marhabi was arrested by Houthi forces in March 2016. He was accused of helping some of his fellow Yemeni Jews to take a family Torah scroll out of the country and was sentenced on March 13, 2018, to three years and six months in prison. The following year, a Yemeni appeals court ordered that he be set free, but Houthi officials ignored the ruling and continued to hold him. According to the USCIRF’s database of religious prisoners of conscience, “Marhabi lives in inhumane prison conditions, where his health continues to deteriorate. He reportedly suffers from kidney and lung issues and has lost all his teeth from being tortured repeatedly.” Other reports indicate that he may be partially paralyzed as well. Marhabi is the last known living heir in Yemen to a once-vibrant Jewish community that dates back at least 2,000 years and possibly traces its origins to biblical times. (JPost / VFI News)

Netanyahu and Saudi Arabia Prince Comment on Normalization Deal; Prime Minister Netanyahu during the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday, September 20, addressed the efforts for normalization with Saudi Arabia: “I believe that we are at the cusp of a historic peace

between Israel and Saudi Arabia. Such a peace will go a long way to ending the Arab Israeli conflict." He further went on to describe a planned corridor connecting the Arabian peninsula, Israel, and Europe, to allow for travel, shipping, and energy pipelines between all of the countries involved. "The US has been indispensable in this effort," Netanyahu stated. "Just as we achieved the Abraham Accords with the leadership of President Trump, I believe we can achieve peace with Saudi Arabia with the leadership of President Biden," he added. Meanwhile, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman commented on the negotiations for the normalization agreement in an interview with American media which also aired on Wednesday. "Everyday we get closer. It seems it's for the first time, a real one, serious. We get to see how it goes." He insisted his country could work with Israel, no matter who is in charge, calling a potential deal "the biggest historical deal since the end of the Cold War." Bin Salman also stated that a deal would rest upon agreements related to the treatment of the Palestinian Arabs. "If we have a breakthrough of reaching a deal that gives the Palestinians their needs and makes the region calm, we're going to work with whoever is there." (INN / VFI News)

Sa'ar: There Are Disturbing Things in the Proposed Deal with Saudi Arabia; MK Gideon Sa'ar gave an interview to Israeli media on Saturday night, September 23, in which he commented on the agreement being negotiated with Saudi Arabia. Sa'ar stated that if the agreement reached with Saudi Arabia is a good one, then the opposition will support the agreement, but also noted immediately the concerns that arise from the talks surrounding the agreement so far. "There are definitely disturbing things, and there is no such thing 'at any cost' in diplomacy," Sa'ar said. He added that "the Saudi demand to enrich uranium on its soil with a full fuel reserve is disturbing and will lead to a nuclear arms race in the Middle East." "The demands on the Palestinian issue are vague," he added. "Conceding territories and dividing Jerusalem - we should not make these moves when the incitement continues and the payment to terrorist activists continues." Sa'ar added that he heard from officials in the defense establishment who told him that they too are concerned. "The required discussions have not been held so far - this is not appropriate. The defense establishment should be included so that it analyzes the proposals, and a public discussion should also take place," he said. (INN / VFI News)

Israel Is Not An Apartheid State, Former South African Defense Minister Says; Israel cannot be compared to an apartheid state, former anti-apartheid activist and South African politician Mosiuoa Lekota said in a complete rejection of the accusation in an interview with the South African Friends of Israel podcast earlier in September. Lekota, who served time in prison alongside Nelson Mandela and later became South Africa's defense minister, provided arguments against such comparisons. "I was in Israel, my brother," Lekota began, recounting his visit. "In Israel, you won't find the same divisions between Jews and non-Jews that we used to witness during apartheid. There are no segregated buses for different ethnic groups, like Jews and Arabs. "In Israel, everyone boards the same bus, travels wherever they need to, and disembarks as they wish. There is no apartheid in Israel, not even within their schools." Lekota was interviewed by South Africa Friends of Israel spokesperson, Bafana Modise. (JPost / VFI News)

Diplomatic Achievement: Congo to Open Embassy in Jerusalem; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met on Thursday, September 21, with President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. The two leaders discussed strengthening cooperation between the countries in the fields of agriculture, trade, defense, cyber and more. During the meeting, Netanyahu and Tshisekedi announced that Israel would open an embassy in Kinshasa, and Congo would move its embassy to Jerusalem. Prime Minister Netanyahu said, "We just had very productive talks with the President of Congo, and we agreed that Israel will open an embassy in Kinshasa, and Congo will move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem - these are two good announcements and I think they reflect our common desire to upgrade our relations." President Tshisekedi said, "I confirm that we had excellent discussions with the Prime Minister of Israel, Netanyahu. The

discussions covered our excellent relations and how to reinforce those relations.” Furthermore, the Pacific Islands nation of Fiji will send a delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Villiame Gavoka to Israel this month, before opening an embassy in Jerusalem in 2024, Fiji officials said, fulfilling an election promise by Gavoka's political party. (INN / VFI News)

US Prisoners Fly out of Iran in Swap Deal; Received by US Officials; Five US detainees flew out of Iran on Monday, September 18, in a swap for five Iranians held in the US under a rare deal brokered by Qatar between the arch enemies, that also unfroze \$6 billion of Tehran's funds. A Qatari plane took off from Tehran carrying the five with two of their relatives, shortly after the US and Iran received confirmation that the funds had been transferred to accounts in Doha, a source briefed on the matter told British media. Iranian media said two of the five Iranians to be released in the exchange had landed in Doha. There was no independent confirmation, though Iranian officials had said three of those to be freed by the US were not returning to Iran. Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi said on Monday that the release of five American detainees by Tehran was "purely a humanitarian action" as they left Iran under a Qatar-mediated deal that involved the release of \$6 billion in Iranian funds in South Korea. The transfer of Iran's funds under this agreement has been criticized for effectively opening the door to more hostage-taking so that the US continues to engage in such deals. (JPost /VFI News)

Military System Malfunction Causes Loud Blast in Iranian City of Gorgan; A malfunction in a military system was the cause of a blast heard in the northern Iranian city of Gorgan, a spokesperson from Iran's Defense Ministry said on Monday, September 18. "In the process of testing defense and drone systems in a desert region, one of these systems suffered a technical defect and deviated from its main path," the spokesperson said, adding that debris fell in and around the city of Gorgan. It was not immediately clear if the spokesperson was referring to a missile. An official from the Golestan province's governorate had earlier said the fallen object was a drone and added that two civilians were injured in the incident. Iranian media have shared footage of a burnt object lying in a street, with nearby shops having their windows smashed and cars sustaining damage. Other videos showed loud bangs followed by debris falling in other parts of the city of Gorgan. (JPost / VFI News)

Biden: US to Work for Israeli Normalization and Two States; The United States plans to seek both the normalization of the Jewish state with its Arab neighbors and a two-state resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, US President Joe Biden told the United Nations on Tuesday, September 19. "Israel's greater normalization and economic connection with its neighbors delivering positive and practical impacts even as we continue to work tirelessly for just and lasting peace, for Israelis and Palestinians, two states for two peoples," he said. He spoke in advance of his highly anticipated meeting on Wednesday morning with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the sidelines of the UNGA's weeklong event that draws heads of state and governments from many of the UN's 193 member nations. Biden referenced specifically the new energy corridor the US announced that would link Europe to India through the Middle East, touching Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Biden hinted that the partnerships the US is helping foster between Israel and its neighbors have little to do with Iran's nuclear threat. However, he also warned that the US would work to ensure that "Iran never acquires nuclear weapons." (JPost /VFI News)

Police: Palestinian Attempts to Stab Officers at East Jerusalem Checkpoint, Is Shot; A Palestinian man was shot by police officers after attempting to carry out a stabbing attack at a checkpoint near Jerusalem on Monday morning, September 18, law enforcement officials said. According to police, the suspect, a 47-year-old from the Bethlehem area, approached the Mazmura checkpoint near the Har Homa neighborhood of southern East Jerusalem and aroused the suspicion of Border Police officers stationed there. Officers stationed at the checkpoint sought to question the Palestinian man, who then drew

a knife from behind his back and ran toward the forces, the spokesman said. A Border Police officer shot at him in response. Police said the suspect was taken by medics to a nearby hospital for treatment. His condition was not immediately clear. There were no other injuries in the incident. Also on Monday morning, Palestinian gunmen carried out three separate shooting attacks against Israeli forces in Judea and Samaria, the military said. In one of the attacks, an army patrol driving along the Judea and Samaria security barrier near the northern Israeli town of Meirav came under fire. The IDF said a military vehicle was damaged in the attack, but no soldiers were wounded. (TOI / VFI News)

Police Call on Civilians with Gun Licenses: Carry Your Weapons to Synagogue; Israel Police head of Operations Major General Sigal Bar-Tzvi on Monday morning, September 18, updated the police force's senior command staff regarding preparations for the remainder of the holidays in the Jewish month of Tishrei, and especially for Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). In her statements, Bar-Tzvi noted that there has been a rise in the number of warnings of potential terror attacks. "Like every year ahead of the Tishrei holidays, we have raised the level of alert in certain areas around the country, especially for the cities of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and centers of prayer and entertainment," she said. "The rise in the number of warnings, together with the incitement to terror, which has also increased ahead of the Tishrei holidays, brought us to special preparations in which thousands of police officers, Border Police officers, and volunteers have been stationed around the country every day, in order to prevent hostile incidents and secure places of prayer, places of entertainment, and the general public throughout the entire holiday period." "We call to the public: Anyone who possesses a weapon and is skilled in its use when necessary should carry his weapons during these days," she concluded. (INN / VFI News)

IDF Unveils New 'Barak' Tank; The Defense Ministry and IDF on Tuesday, September 19, unveiled for the first time the new 'Barak' tank. The joint statement reads: "Sensing and front-end processing capabilities based on artificial intelligence, the ability to reveal the enemy and create targets for combat troops on the battlefield, full combat in closed ranges based on 360-degree peripheral observation and a "pilots" helmet for the commander, multi-touch screens, advanced operation controllers, adaptation to changing combat situations and improved survivability - these are just some of the capabilities of the new tank that was recently brought to service in the IDF." Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant said: "It is very meaningful that during the period when we mark 50 years since the 'Yom Kippur War', and the heroic battles fought during this war by the soldiers of the Armored Corps in defense of our country -- we receive further proof of the relevance and power of the tank as an essential tool." The exposure, operation, and processing capabilities of the Barak tank will cause a dramatic change on the battlefield. It will enhance the capabilities needed to expose an enemy and will enable combat against an enemy with a low profile and in all combat situations on the current and future battlefield, against the set of threats that exist for the maneuvering force. The Barak will be equipped with a commander's sight and a gunner and with continuous and up-to-date intelligence collection, fusion, and sharing capabilities. It has capabilities and means to close circles of fire between all the forces fighting on land and in the air, in a way that will reduce time and increase accuracy in battle. (INN / VFI News)

UAE Foreign Minister Condemns Mahmoud Abbas' Anti-Semitic Speech; United Arab Emirates (UAE) Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Tuesday, September 19, met with Jewish leaders at the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. Media reported that Al Nahyan condemned the speech by Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas blaming the Jews for the Holocaust. According to the report, the UAE Foreign Minister "condemned the irresponsible statements made by the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas regarding Jews and the Nazi Holocaust." He reiterated the UAE's rejection of racism, bigotry, and hate speech. In his speech last month, Abbas claimed that Hitler killed the Jews not because of their ethnicity, but because of their practices regarding money and finances. "This is explained in many Jewish books," Abbas said. Abbas also repeated the

debunked 'Khazar myth' that Jews from Europe are not really Jews and made similarly false claims about the exodus of Jews from Arab and Muslim countries during the 20th Century. (INN / VFI News)

Paraguay to Open Embassy in Jerusalem; Paraguay plans to move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, Paraguayan President Santiago Peña told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli media reported. The embassy, which is expected to open at the end of 2023, will be reciprocated with the opening of an Israeli embassy in the Paraguayan capital of Asuncion. In 2018, Paraguay's outgoing president Horacio Cartes announced that his country would open an embassy in Jerusalem, following similar moves by the US and Guatemala. But the embassy was moved back to Tel Aviv after just five months by Cartes's successor Abdo Benitez, who said he hadn't been consulted in the original decision and indicated that it harmed efforts to maintain a more neutral approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. (JPost / VFI News)



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)

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