

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update October 5, 2023 (Tishrei 20, 5784)

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A golden menorah with seven branches and a bottle of Anointing Oil. The bottle has a label with Hebrew text and an image of a menorah.

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Happy Sukkot; With the beginning of Sukkot today at sundown, we would like to wish all of our readers Chag Sukkot Same'ach! May you rejoice during the celebrations and spend plenty of time thanking the Lord for all your blessings. We pray that He will fill your life with health, love, and happiness and that you will continue to praise Him at all times.

Hamas Terrorist Killed After Attacking IDF Soldiers Near Settlement; IDF soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian man who threw Molotov cocktails at a military checkpoint near the settlement of Psagot near the city of Ramallah on Friday night, September 29. The checkpoint came under attack shortly after 10 p.m. when two men began throwing Molotov cocktails at the forces. Following this, members of the 636th Nitzan Field Intelligence Unit identified and fired at the two suspects. Both were shot and evacuated for medical treatment with one in serious condition with gunshot wounds to his abdomen and the other in light condition with wounds to his lower limbs. No damage to property or injuries to Israeli forces were reported. The Palestinian Health Ministry announced later that the man in serious condition, Muhammad Jibril Romana, a resident of the al-Amari refugee camp, had died of his wounds. Hamas claimed him as a member of the organization in an announcement on Friday night, according to British media. (JPost /VFI News)

Suspected Palestinian Gunmen Hit Settlement Homes in South Judea and Samaria; No Injuries; Gunmen fired a hail of bullets at a settlement in southern Judea and Samaria Sunday evening, October 1, the military said, hitting several homes without causing any casualties. According to the Israel Defense Forces, slight damage was caused to several homes in the settlement of Asa'el. There were no injuries in the attack, medical officials and the military said. Asa'el was one of the nine illegal Judea and

Samaria outposts that the government legalized in February. The IDF said troops launched a manhunt for the suspects, who fled the scene. The bullets were fired from outside the settlement, located south of the Palestinian town of as-Samu and some 1.5 kilometers (1 mile) north of the Green Line. Earlier, on Friday night, Palestinian gunmen in Judea and Samaria opened fire at the northern Kibbutz Meirav, adjacent to the Israeli security barrier. A group of Meirav residents crossed the fence into the nearby Palestinian village of Jalbun Sunday morning to protest the attack, the latest of several to target the community. (TOI / VFI News)

Israel Police Chief: We Will Treat Quintuple Murder 'Like Terrorism' – Report; Five people were killed and one person was moderately injured in a shooting incident in the northern town of Basmat Tabun on Wednesday, September 27, according to Israeli media. "As far as we are concerned, those who committed this murder are terrorists," said Police Chief Kobi Shabtai in response to the incident. "A red line was crossed here." Israel Police received a report on Wednesday of a criminal shooting incident from the northern town of Basmat Tabun of four people in critical condition and one in moderate condition, four men and one woman. MDA medics arrived at the scene and tried to give them medical treatment but had to pronounce five people dead and bring one person in moderate condition to the hospital for further medical treatment. "I express deep shock at the violence and bloodbath in Arab society that claimed six more victims today," National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said in a statement. Later, on Saturday, an Arab man was shot and killed in northern Israel, marking this the 11th murder in the community in the past week. According to the Abraham Initiatives, in 2023, 188 Arabs lost their lives due to the wave of violence and crime in Arab sectors. (JPost / VFI News)

Arson Suspect Apprehended After Setting Sukkot Ablaze in Ashdod; The Ashdod police station successfully apprehended a suspect responsible for igniting fires in several sukkot within the city on Thursday, ahead of the Sukkot holiday that began Friday evening, September 29. This arrest followed a report received Thursday morning at the Israel Police 100 hotline in the Southern District, alerting authorities. The report outlined an individual suspected of deliberately setting fire to several sukkot in District 8 of Ashdod, raising concerns among the local community during the ongoing Tishrei holiday season. According to a statement by the Police, "Ashdod police officers swiftly descended upon the scene, demonstrating their commitment to public safety. By engaging with residents and meticulously following investigative procedures, law enforcement personnel managed to identify the suspect." In subsequent searches conducted by the police team, six sukkot were found damaged due to the suspected arsonist's actions. The suspect, identified as a 30-year-old Ashdod resident, was promptly taken into custody and subsequently handed over to the Israel Police for further questioning. (JPost / VFI News)

Israel Locates Missing Remains of War of Independence Fighter; Seventy-five years after the War of Independence, when fighter private Dov Broder died in an operation, his burial place has been identified, the IDF Spokesperson's Unit announced on Sunday morning, October 1. Broder fell during the May 13, 1948 Operation Medina, the Alexandroni Brigade's push to seize Kafr Saba. Serving as an armored vehicle driver, Broder was sent with the 33rd Battalion to provide cover for another force, but his unit was attacked. Broder was killed, his vehicle damaged, and his body was never identified until now. Broder's family and his 95-year-old widow Batya were contacted by Personnel Directorate head Major General Yaniv Asor on Saturday night to update that investigations had found the Independence warrior's body. Broder was buried in Petah Tikvah as an unknown soldier in the Segula cemetery. He had been buried there after his evacuation to the Beilinson Hospital. Asor described Broder as a young man who fell in battle, leaving behind a young wife and was one of the people who built the country. It was both a happy and sad occasion, he said sitting in the family's salon. Unknown no longer, a ceremony will be held to replace Broder's headstone, replacing the inscription with his name. (JPost / VFI News)

Israel Enters US's Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and National Airline Boosts Flights to NY; On Wednesday, September 27, the US government said Israel would be admitted to the US Visa Waiver Program as of November 30. Israel's entrance into the US's VWP is anticipated to foster stronger personal and professional connections between the two countries, enabling smoother travel and enhancing opportunities for tourism and business exchanges. The move will "enable better ways for Israelis to be familiar with market demand in the US, and for Americans to be familiar with the huge amount of innovation coming from the start-up nation," said Oren Sagi, current chairman of AmCham Israel. AmCham Israel serves as the exclusive local representative of the US Chamber of Commerce, which is the largest business federation in the world. Later, on Thursday, El Al Israel Airlines said it would add flights to New York in 2024. Starting next June, Israel's flag carrier will add a daily flight to New York's JFK Airport that will bring daily flights to JFK and Newark airports to as many as six per day and 33 per week. El Al said a survey it commissioned of Israeli adults who plan to travel abroad found that just 30% of them hold visas to enter the United States, while 40% of those considering flying to the US said the need for a visa was one of the main barriers to flying there. (JPost / VFI News)

Iran Official Admits Country's Role in Terror Bombing that Killed 241 US Military Members: Report; The Islamic Republic of Iran's representative in Lebanon issued the first public announcement of the Iranian regime's role in the mass murder of American military and diplomatic personnel in the early 1980s in Beirut. The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) first located and translated the bombshell interview with Sayyed Issa Tabatabai, who serves as the representative of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in Lebanon. Iranian state-controlled media quickly scrubbed the damning disclosure that Tabatabai made about Iran's role in the suicide bombings of Americans, but MEMRI preserved a copy. Iran and its chief strategic ally, the U.S.-designated terrorist movement Hezbollah in Lebanon have been blamed for bombing the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in 1983 in which 63 people, including 17 Americans, were murdered, and dual suicide truck bombers blew up the barracks of American and French members of a multinational force in Lebanon in 1983, in which 220 U.S. Marines, 18 U.S. Navy sailors and 3 U.S. Army soldiers lost their lives. Fifty-eight French troops were also murdered in the terrorist attack. According to the MEMRI translation of Tabatabai's interview with the Iranian media, Tabatabai said, "I quickly went to Lebanon and provided what was needed in order to [carry out] martyrdom operations in the place where the Americans and Israelis were. The efforts to establish [Hezbollah] started in [Lebanon's] Baalbek area, where members of [Iran's] Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) arrived." Tabatabai also said during the interview, "With the victory of the Islamic Revolution [in Iran], Hezbollah was established [in the summer of 1982]. For two years, [Hezbollah's] military base was located in my home. 'The group' [supporters of the Islamic Revolution] signed a contract declaring their willingness to become martyrs. Perhaps more than 70 [of them] signed this contract in my home." (FN / VFI News)

Iran's Raisi Slams Normalization with Israel as 'Reactionary and Regressive'; Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Sunday, October 1, denounced any attempts by regional countries to normalize relations with its arch-enemy Israel as "reactionary and regressive." The remarks came amid ongoing US-brokered negotiations between Israel and Saudi Arabia to establish formal ties, with the United States saying on Friday that the two countries are moving toward the outline of a deal. "Normalizing relations with the Zionist regime is a reactionary and regressive move by any government in the Islamic world," Raisi said during an international Islamic conference held in Tehran. Raisi further labeled any normalization attempt as the "foreigners' desire," while stating that "surrender and compromise" regarding Israel were not on the table. "The only option for all the fighters in the occupied land and the Islamic world is to resist and stand against the enemies," he said, reiterating Iran's position that Jerusalem must be "liberated." Meanwhile, as a sign of warming Israeli-Saudi ties, Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi is set to become the second

Israeli minister ever to visit Riyadh when he heads there this week to attend a Universal Postal Union conference. (TOI / VFI News)

IDF, Lebanese Army Clash on Israel's Northern Border; Clashes broke out Saturday afternoon, September 23, between the IDF and the Lebanese army near the northern border, after a heavy-duty vehicle illegally crossed into Israel. Armed forces fired “protest dispersion” tools such as stun grenades at a tractor that crossed from the border into Israel in the Mount Dov area after surveillance identified the vehicle. A statement released by the IDF stated that the tractor crossed the Blue Line from Lebanon into the Mount Dov area by about two meters, leading to multiple grenades being fired from Lebanon toward where the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon was stationed. The current demarcation line between the two countries is known as the Blue Line, a frontier mapped by the United Nations that marks the line to which Israeli forces withdrew when they left south Lebanon in 2000. The IDF returned fire and the vessel returned to Lebanese territory, Israeli media reported. According to the IDF, neither Lebanese soldiers nor Hezbollah fighters crossed over the border. Later on Saturday, the Lebanese Armed Forces said it fired tear gas at Israeli forces following the launch of stun grenades at the heavy machinery. (JPost / VFI News)

Israel Strikes Hamas Posts in Gaza Amid Violent Rioting on Border; The Israeli military said it launched new strikes in the Gaza Strip Sunday evening, September 24, targeting “two military posts” of the Palestinian terror group Hamas, which rules the Palestinian enclave. The posts were in Gaza’s Bureij and Jabalya areas. The strikes, launched using unmanned aircraft, came after disturbances along the Gaza border with Israel turned violent on Sunday. The military announced earlier that it was reinforcing troops along the Gaza Strip border, as tensions rose along the frontier and as incendiary balloons sparked fires in Israel. Palestinians in Gaza have increasingly returned in recent weeks to the practice of launching incendiary devices tied to helium balloons into Israel. Such fire-starting contraptions have been responsible for numerous fires that have destroyed large tracts of land. Firefighters said Sunday afternoon they had brought three blazes under control in the Gaza periphery while stating that they were caused by incendiary balloons from the Strip. On Saturday, the military carried out an airstrike on a Hamas position in the Gaza Strip following the latest riots along the border which included gunfire toward Israeli army forces. The Israel Defense Forces said a drone struck the post, located near the scene of the day’s riots. (TOI / VFI News)

Israel Arrests 8 Palestinian University Students Suspected of Planning Terror Attack; Israeli security forces said Sunday, September 24, they had arrested eight Palestinian students suspected of planning a terror attack in the immediate future. The students, from Birzeit University near Ramallah, were nabbed following an investigation into Hamas cells in Palestinian educational institutions, the Israel Defense Forces and Shin Bet said. They were allegedly recruited by Hamas operatives in Gaza, receiving weaponry intended for the attack. Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine after meeting top officials in Beirut, “stressed the importance of escalating the comprehensive resistance, especially the armed resistance, in the face of the Israeli occupation, and agreed to strengthen all forms of coordination between the three organizations on all issues.” Later, on Monday night, Israeli forces arrested another five terrorism suspects in Judea and Samaria, the Israel Defense Forces said on Tuesday morning. The IDF, Shin Bet, and Israel Border Police arrested four wanted men in Silwad. Another man was seized in Deir Sammit along with a pistol, two magazines, and almost 150 9mm cartridges. (TOI / VFI News)

Iran Unveils ‘Longest-Range Drone in the World,’ Threatens Israel at Military Parade; Iran on Friday, September 22, displayed what it claimed to be “the longest-range drone in the world” during a military parade that featured banners threatening Israel. The drone was one of several unnamed aerial vehicles and missiles that Iranian forces showed off at an event in Tehran marking the anniversary of the

bloody Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s, and came weeks after Iran unveiled a drone it claimed could remain airborne for 24 hours. The display of drones and other military hardware came days after the United States sanctioned several people and entities allegedly linked to Iran's drone program. Friday's parade featured large signs declaring "Down with Israel" and "Down with USA," as well as posters in Hebrew and English warning Israelis to "prepare your shelters." State media reports on the parade did not provide details on "the longest-range drone in the world." Iran has previously made dubious and exaggerated claims regarding its military capabilities and there was no independent confirmation of the announcement. (TOI / VFI News)

Iran Denies Missile Base Blast After Mystery Explosion Rocks Western City; A mysterious explosion, characterized as a "terrible sound followed by strong shocks" by Iranian pro-regime media, struck an area near Khorramabad in the Lorestan province in western Iran on Monday night, September 25, causing "fear and concern," and believed by residents to be an earthquake. According to IRGC-associated media, "After a terrible sound was heard at midnight last night, opposition [anti-regime] media and others announced that a terrible explosion occurred in one of Lorestan's military centers." Iranian authorities also requested "the people of Lorestan not to pay attention to rumors and to receive news only from official authorities and media." According to the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), a Washington-based security nonprofit with a focus on nuclear and biological threats, Khorramabad hosts the site of an Iranian missile base. The Imam Ali Missile Base is "one of two Iranian silo missile bases," details the NTI report, adding that former Iranian president Mohammad Khatami reportedly "ordered the production of 15 Shahab-3 missiles, to be deployed in underground bunkers near Khorramabad." The complex is "heavily guarded," the report adds. "One of them [is] a storage facility and the second an operational missile launch facility."(JPost /VFI News)

Saudi Envoy to Palestinians: Two-State Solution 'Central' to Israel Deal; Saudi Arabia's first ambassador to the Palestinian Authority, Nayef al-Sudairi, arrived in Ramallah on Tuesday morning, September 26, implying in a statement to reporters that the establishment of a Palestinian state with its capital in east Jerusalem would be a central pillar of any future deal with Israel. Sudairi announced as well that the Kingdom intends to open a consulate in east Jerusalem. Such a move would seemingly require the approval of Israeli authorities. In response to a question about the fate of the two-state solution, if Saudi Arabia and Israel normalized relations, the ambassador told reporters that "the Arab Peace Initiative is the central point of any upcoming agreement." The initiative calls on Israel to accept the establishment of a Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital, to reach a "just solution" to the Palestinian refugee issue, and to withdraw from the Golan Heights. Once Israel meets these requirements, the Arab countries that signed on to the Initiative will consider the Arab-Israeli conflict ended and enter normalization agreements with Israel. (JPost / VFI News)

Gallant Heads to Berlin to Sign \$3.5 Billion Arrow 3 Air Defense Deal; Israel is set to sign a letter of commitment for its largest-ever single defense contract this week, moving forward with selling \$3.5 billion worth of the Arrow 3 air defense system to Germany. The US gave its blessing to the sale in August. While in Berlin, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant will meet with his German counterpart, Boris Pistorius, who is hosting the Israeli defense delegation. The two will issue a joint declaration on cooperation between the respective defense establishments. The deal not only sets a high-water mark for Israeli defense sales and German efforts to beef up defense capabilities amid Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine but also carries symbolic overtones, with the Jewish state selling defensive systems to a nation that less than a century ago turned its military might toward Jewish extermination. The sale would also make Germany the second country, after the US, to obtain the Arrow from Israel, a decision that a Defense Ministry official called significant. The full \$3.5 billion contract, according to the Defense Ministry, would

be signed by the end of 2023, once final approvals from both parliaments are obtained. Berlin expects the Arrow 3 system to be delivered in the final quarter of 2025. (TOI / VFI News)

Archaeologists Unearth Largest Cemetery Ever Found in Gaza, with Rare Lead Sarcophagi; Palestinian workers in the Gaza Strip have found over 100 ancient graves, including two sarcophagi made of lead, in a Roman-era cemetery — a site dating back some 2,000 years that archaeologists describe as the largest cemetery discovered in Gaza. Rene Elter, a French archaeologist leading the dig, said researchers have studied over 100 of the graves. Elter pointed to the sarcophagi made of lead — one featuring ornate grape leaves, the other with images of dolphins — as exceptional finds. Given the rarity of the lead tombs, Palestinian archaeologists like Fadel Al-Otul suspect that social elites are buried there. Al-Otul said the cemetery probably used to be located in a city — Romans used to place cemeteries near city centers. Alongside the sarcophagi, Elter’s team is restoring unearthed skeletons and piecing together shards of clay jars. The skeletons discovered at the site will be sent out of Gaza for additional analysis, according to Al-Otul. The remains are set to return to the Hamas-led Ministry of Antiquities and Tourism. (TOI / VFI News)



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