

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update November 2, 2023 (Cheshvan 18, 5784)

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There are so many videos that touch my heart right now. But please watch this one and pray. It is not at all graphic, but have your Kleenex ready anyway.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCK31kVsIT0>

IDF Rescues Soldier Held Hostage by Hamas; Private Ori Megidish, an IDF soldier, was rescued during the IDF's operation in Gaza on Sunday night, October 29, the IDF and Shin Bet said in a joint statement on Monday. The statement noted that the IDF and Shin Bet will continue to make every effort to secure the freedom of the remaining hostages. Megidish was kidnapped by the Hamas terrorists on October 7 and has now been reunited with her family. A subsequent medical examination has determined that she is healthy. President Isaac Herzog was quick to express his happiness for Megidish's rescue in a statement on X (formerly Twitter) on Monday night. "I was moved to see the soldier Ori Megidish return home to her loving family after a daring operation by the IDF and Shin Bet. Our security forces operate around the clock in Gaza, in the north, in Judea and Samaria, and everywhere, on land, in the air, and at sea," he wrote. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also commented after Megidish's rescue: "I commend the Shin Bet and the IDF for this significant and emotional achievement, an achievement that reflects our

commitment to bringing all the captives home. All of Israel pays tribute to the Shin Bet and the IDF.” “It's like another birth,” Israeli media quoted a neighbor of the family, Itamar Trobek, as saying. “We are very happy. We saw the family, they weren't the same as yesterday. We prayed a lot.” (JPost / VFI News)

Hamas Releases Video of Three Female Hostages: Netanyahu Blasts Terror Group's 'Cruel Psychological Propaganda'; Hamas on Monday, October 30, released a video it said showed three female hostages who were abducted by the terrorists and taken into Gaza during the October 7 attacks. Sitting on plastic chairs against a white tile wall, one of the women shouted as she criticized Israel's response to the hostage crisis and for not “guarding them” from the terrorists. The woman urged Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to agree to a prisoner exchange for the release of all captives in her brief statement, which was likely made under duress. Speaking in Hebrew, she becomes very agitated and starts shouting, almost screaming by the end, as the other two sitting on either side of her remain silent. In response, Netanyahu condemned the video as “cruel psychological propaganda” and told the female hostages “Our heart is with you”. The Israeli Prime Minister named the three female hostages: Yelena Trupanob, Daniel Aloni, and Rimon Kirsht, and vowed “to bring all the abducted and missing people home.” On Monday evening, he also delivered an address to the international media on the war. He stated that Israel would not agree to a cease-fire with Hamas after the massacre of so many of its citizens. “Just as the United States would not agree to a cease-fire after the bombing of Pearl Harbor or after the terrorist attack of 9/11, Israel will not agree to a cessation of hostilities with Hamas after the horrific attacks of October 7.” He added: “Today we draw a line between civilization and barbarism. God bless Israel, and all those who stand with Israel - but regardless of who stands with Israel, Israel will fight until this is done ... Calls for a cease-fire are calls for Israel to surrender to Hamas, to surrender to terrorism, to surrender to barbarism. This will not happen.” (DM / VFI News)

Lapid: These 6 Hamas Leaders Must Die; Opposition leader Yair Lapid said during the weekly Yesh Atid faction meeting on Monday, October 30, that he intends to support the government in any decision that will bring the hostages held by Hamas back home. “I conveyed a message to the government, by virtue of my position as the head of the opposition, that we will fully support every decision and every step and every price that will lead to the return of the abductees home. At the same time, we need to take painful steps to make sure they return home,” Lapid stated. He also defined the goals of the war and stated that all of Hamas' top leaders - including those outside Gaza - must be eliminated. He added, “The political echelon defined the goal of the war as the elimination of Hamas' military infrastructure. I agree, of course, but to that must be added the elimination of the Hamas leadership.” “The State of Israel must not stop and must not let go until we kill six people: Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif, Ismail Haniyeh, Saleh al-Arouri, Khaled Mashal, and Marwan Issa. All six must die. Until they die, Israel will not have avenged the murders of Be'eri and Sderot, Kafr Aza, and Ofakim. Until they die, the Middle East will not understand that we are not messing around.” Meanwhile, in a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Minister of Finance Bezalel Smotrich is asking not to transfer funds to the Palestinian Authority from the taxes that Israel collects for it, due to its actions and support of Hamas in Gaza. He stated that these funds are used in actions against the State of Israel and its citizens. (INN / VFI News)

Global Anti-Semitic Attacks Rise by 500% Since Last Year, WZO Reveals; In the wake of the recent Hamas massacre, a disconcerting report has been released by the World Zionist Organization (WZO), the Diaspora Affairs and Combating Anti-Semitism Ministry, and the Jewish Agency, revealing a 500% surge in anti-Semitic incidents globally compared to the same timeframe the previous year. According to the report, online anti-Semitic discourse on selected social media platforms has witnessed a 400% uptick relative to the period before the war. The report also reveals a surge in calls for the annihilation of Israel and direct threats to Jewish communities worldwide. Alarming, over the previous two weekends, the ISIS terror organization has made public calls for its followers to target Jewish

establishments globally. Their directives ranged from attacks on Jewish neighborhoods in the USA and Europe to committing arson and vandalism against synagogues and even direct assaults on Jewish club patrons. The academic sphere hasn't been spared either. Campuses in the US, Australia, and South Africa have seen an increase in anti-Semitic incidents. An astounding 56% of Jewish students worldwide reported feeling fearful, while 25% of students reported encountering hate-driven activities and violence on their campuses since the war's inception. There are numerous hate crimes committed daily; Jewish homes in Berlin, Paris and surrounding areas have been marked with the Star of David, evoking painful memories of the Nazi era. Further, on Sunday, October 29, a swarm of local residents in Makhachkala in the Russian Republic of Dagestan stormed an airport in the city in an attempt to attack any Jews and Israelis set to arrive from Tel Aviv, according to local media reports. (JPost / VFI News)

'Jews Not Allowed': As Erdogan Praises Hamas, Anti-Semitism Rises on the Ground in Turkey; "Jews not allowed," read the sign in English and Turkish above Rağman Şahaf, a used book store next to Istanbul University, not far from the city's famed Grand Bazaar. Even after the sign was taken down on Friday, October 27, the store's owner said he stuck by the message. Anti-Israel banners and graffiti, along with Palestinian flags, have become commonplace across Istanbul, as many of its citizens fume over Israel's response to the Hamas attacks on October 7 that left over 1,400 dead. Images have also circulated of taxis with signs saying that their drivers would not serve Israelis. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has had an up-and-down relationship with Israel over his 20 years as Turkey's head of state, has come out firmly defending Hamas' actions on October 7, calling the terrorist organization "a liberation group." In response, Israel recalled its diplomats from Turkey. Anti-Semitic rhetoric has spread throughout Turkish politics. A day after a hospital in Gaza was hit by rocket fire on October 17, a politician from Turkey's ruling AKP party, Süleyman Sezen, representing a small municipality called Atakum in the Black Sea city of Samsun, said at a public hearing that he was praying for the soul of Hitler, adding that the world will find peace when it is cleansed of Jews and that the Holocaust was "unfinished." On October 10, Huda-Par parliamentarian Şahzade Demir addressed the Turkish parliament, calling to revoke citizenship for Turkish Jews if they volunteer for the Israeli military. Days later, a far-right media outlet, called for Turkish Jews to be denaturalized, under the false claim that they all have dual Israeli citizenship. It has all amounted to a tense atmosphere for Turkish Jews, who now number around 15,000 and descend mainly from Sephardic families but also include Ashkenazi, Romaniote, and Mizrahi communities. That number was close to 80,000 in the founding year of Turkey's republic in 1923 — exactly 100 years ago on Sunday. (JPost / VFI News)

Highly Renowned Media Disorient and Show Fabricated News in Favor of Hamas; Online pro-Israel activist Yosef Haddad published a video of what is alleged to be a treatment center in Gaza, featuring a woman sitting next to the body of someone purportedly killed in an Israeli airstrike. In the video, from CNN, the body can be seen raising its head repeatedly. These are similar images that have been circulating on X, alleging to show corpses in Gazan medical centers using mobile devices through their shrouds. The Health Ministry in Gaza has reported well beyond 10,000 deaths since the beginning of the war. Meanwhile, during a White House meeting, President Biden reportedly blasted The New York Times' previous controversial coverage of the explosion near a Gaza Strip hospital. A report alleged that Biden met with Wall Street executives in the White House's Roosevelt Room last week and discussed the paper along with its claim that Israel was behind the explosion. He was particularly disturbed such a headline appeared "in an American newspaper." "Israeli Strike Kills Hundreds in Hospital, Palestinians Say," the original headline read on October 17. Biden reportedly thought that the headline was irresponsible and could have triggered a military escalation in the Middle East. Further, Yale's campus newspaper, the oldest college daily in the United States, recently removed claims from a column in its paper saying Hamas raped women and beheaded men in its murderous attack on Israel on October 7, saying they were "unsubstantiated claims." (INN / VFI News)

Catholic University Becomes Safe Haven for Jewish Students Escaping Anti-Semitism; A recent Harvard CAPS/Harris poll found that 48 percent of voters between 18 and 24 support Hamas in the current conflict. According to Steven Davidoff Solomon, a corporate law professor at the University of California, Berkeley, “Universities have been engaging for far too long in moral equivocation, and terrorist attacks against innocents should be condemned and not justified.” Amidst escalating tensions on college campuses, 20-year-old Melanie Schwartz, a junior at Cornell, told American media, “Jewish students are fearful and isolated.” To help students facing hostility on college campuses, the Franciscan University of Steubenville, a private Catholic university in Ohio, has created an expedited transfer process. “[W]ith too many universities preaching tolerance but practicing prejudice, we feel compelled to do more. We are witnessing a very troubling spike in antisemitism and serious threats against Jewish students. We want to offer them the chance to transfer immediately to Franciscan,” Father Dave Pivonka, president of Franciscan University, said. “Our community will welcome them with generosity and respect,” Father Pivonka said. “Our religious differences will not cause any conflict. On the contrary, at Franciscan, our radical fidelity to Christ and the Catholic faith demands of us fraternal charity toward our Jewish brothers and sisters, as it does toward all people.” Although Franciscan achieved record-high enrollment this academic year, university administrators are committed to accommodating and creating a haven for Jewish transfer students. (FN / VFI News)

Afghan Women Were Buried Alive in Earthquake Because They Were Afraid to Leave Home Without Hijab and Rescue Workers Would Not 'Mix' with Females; Afghan women were buried alive in their homes after a 6.3 magnitude earthquake, as they were afraid of going outside without their hijabs, it has emerged. Rescue efforts following the October 7 earthquake, which hit western Afghanistan and killed more than 2,000, were also hindered by a Taliban directive that forbids women and men who do not know each other from mixing. An anonymous female rescue worker told the media that the arbitrary rules meant male rescuers were reluctant to help women, leading to a higher death toll among women. UN relief agencies said 90 percent of the victims in one large city, Herat, were women and children. “Most of the patients were women and children because they were at home when the earthquake hit,” Dr Qasem Sadat, a health official in the region, said. The UN revealed several women affected by the earthquake were also unable to access aid without the national identity card of a male relative. Additionally, cultural norms have made it impossible for women to share tents with their neighbors or other family, the UN said. “When natural disasters strike, women and girls are impacted most and often considered least in crisis response and recovery,” Alison Davidian, the UN special representative for women in Afghanistan, said in a message. (DM /VFI News)

Hamas Leader: 'Women, Children, Elderly' Must Die in Gaza to Help Our Fight Against Israel; Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh called for Palestinian civilians to die in Israel’s strikes against Hamas terrorists inside of Gaza. The remarks come as Hamas commits war crimes by using civilians as human shields and lies about events that have unfolded during the three-week war, including its false claims that Israel bombed a hospital. The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) captured remarks that Haniyeh made during an address on Thursday, October 26, in which he falsely claimed Israel was committing a “new holocaust” against the Palestinians inside Gaza. “This brutal aggression must stop. This new holocaust must stop. I have said this before, and I say it time again: The blood of the women, children, and elderly... I am not saying that this blood is calling for your [help],” he said. “We are the ones who need this blood, so it awakens within us the revolutionary spirit, so it awakens within us resolve, so it awakens within us the spirit of challenge, and [pushes us] to move forward.” Israel’s strikes come after Hamas terrorists massacred more than 1,400 Israelis, wounded at least 5,400, and took 239 hostages during the unprecedented attack on October 7. Children were beheaded, babies burned alive, and women raped so violently that their dead bodies were discovered to have broken pelvises. (DW / VFI News)

Hamas's Main Operations Base Is Under Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, Says IDF; The Israel Defense Forces on Friday, October 27, said the Hamas terror group's main base of operations is under the largest hospital in Gaza City, the Al-Shifa Hospital, providing visuals and intercepted audio as evidence of the terror organization's activities. In a briefing for reporters of international media outlets, IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said Hamas has several underground complexes under Shifa that are used by the terror group's leaders to direct attacks against Israel. Hagari said Israel has intelligence that there are several tunnels leading to the underground base from outside the hospital so that Hamas officials do not need to enter the hospital to reach it. But Hagari added that there is also an entrance to the underground complex from within one of the wards. "Right now, terrorists move freely in Shifa Hospital, and other hospitals in Gaza," Hagari said. The hospital's energy infrastructure is also used by Hamas's underground base, Hagari said, accusing the terror group of using the hospital and its occupants — with 1,500 beds and some 4,000 staff — as human shields. The information on Hamas's use of the hospital is based on a wide range of intelligence sources collected by the Military Intelligence Directorate and Shin Bet security agency. (TOI / VFI News)

Arab, Western Officials Agree that Hamas Is Keeping Gaza Food, Fuel for Itself; Arab and Western officials told American media over the weekend that Hamas is stockpiling food and fuel in the Gaza Strip, keeping it from residents who are in desperate need. The comments back up similar Israeli assertions. The officials told the news outlet on Friday, October 27, that the terror group has amassed stores in its vast network of tunnels. The unnamed sources said Hamas has hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel, which it is using to power rockets, vehicles, and other military uses, as well as stockpiles of water, medicine, and food. A senior Lebanese official told the newspaper that Hamas has enough supplies for the terror group to sustain fighting for three to four months without a need for resupply. In another conversation aired by the military, a senior Gazan energy official reveals that Hamas currently has at least a million liters of gasoline and possibly more, which it stole from civilian projects and is currently hoarding to power its tunnel networks. Israel has barred the entry of fuel into Gaza after imposing a complete blockade on the coastal enclave in the early hours of the war. However, several aid convoys of food, water, and medical equipment have been allowed in via Egypt. (TOI / VFI News)

Gazans Plunder UNRWA Food Supplies As 'Civil Order' Breaks Down in War-Torn Strip; The United Nations warned Sunday, October 29, that "civil order" was starting to collapse in Gaza after thousands of people ransacked its food warehouses in the war-torn Palestinian enclave. The UN Relief Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) said wheat, flour, and other supplies had been pillaged at several warehouses. "This is a worrying sign that civil order is starting to break down after three weeks of war and a tight siege," said UNRWA's Gaza chief Thomas White. One of the warehouses in the central town of Deir el-Balah had been used to store supplies from humanitarian convoys that began crossing into Gaza from Egypt on October 21. "Thousands of people broke into several UNRWA warehouses and distribution centers in the middle and southern areas of the Gaza Strip, taking wheat flour and other basic survival items like hygiene supplies," UNRWA said. Israel originally imposed a total blockade on food, water, medicine, and fuel deliveries into Gaza, but later allowed humanitarian aid convoys, not including fuel, to bring supplies in from Egypt. It has also resumed some of its water supply; the second of three water pipelines that provide water to the Gaza Strip has been reopened, allowing for a total of 28.5 million liters a day to flow into the Hamas-run territory from Israel. Further, since then, UNRWA says 84 aid trucks have crossed into Gaza but aid agencies say the numbers are far too low. Before the conflict, UN figures showed an average of 500 trucks a day entering Gaza. (TOI / VFI News)

Navy Seal, Combat Medic Congressman Shaken After Visit to Israel Slaughter Sites: 'ISIS Times 1,000'; A former Navy Seal and combat medic-turned-congressman says the aftermath of Hamas'

slaughter of Israeli civilians on October 7 was the most horrific and barbaric sight he ever encountered. “This is ISIS times 1,000,” Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-Wis.), who toured Israel last week, told American media, referring to the jihadists known for beheading hostages. Van Orden served 26 years in the Navy, 22 of those as a Navy Seal, including five combat deployments. “I can speak with authority. I’ve done multiple combat tours. People were slaughtered at a level not seen since the Holocaust,” he said of the attack on Israel, which killed at least 1,400 people, many civilians. “These Hamas terrorists — these savages, these beasts — they specifically targeted children. They were told to cut people’s arms and legs off ... It’s gut-wrenching,” Van Orden said. “People are trying to legitimize this.” During his visit, the congressman also helped prepare sandwiches for children and soldiers, donated blood, and visited a wounded Israeli warrior. Aside from helping Israel wipe out Hamas, Van Orden, a member of the House Agricultural and Veterans committees, said he will push to provide food aid to Israel. (NYP / VFI News)

Czech Defense Minister: Our Country Should Leave UN Over Response to Hamas; Czech Defense Minister Jana Černočová strongly condemned the United Nations for its response to the Hamas-started war against Israel and called for the Czech Republic to withdraw from the UN after the General Assembly passed a resolution calling on Israel to end its retaliation against Hamas so that the terrorist organization would remain in power after it massacred over 1,400 Israelis on October 7. “Exactly three weeks ago, Hamas murdered more than 1,400 Israelis, which is more victims per their population than the militant Islamist organization al-Qaeda murdered on 9/11/2001 in the USA. And only 14 countries, including ours, stood up against the unprecedented terrorist attack committed by Hamas terrorists, clearly and comprehensible!” Černočová said. “I am ashamed of the UN. In my opinion - the Czech Republic has nothing to expect in an organization that supports terrorists and does not respect the basic right to self-defense. Let's get out,” she added. Last week, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Gilad Erdan, spoke before the General Assembly and said that “thousands of Hamas mortars and rockets were fired indiscriminately, and barbaric and cruel Hamas terrorists invaded Israel with the aim of savagely murdering every living being they come across. It was a well-planned, deliberate attack by Nazi killers who slaughtered people in their beds.” In addition, he said: “Twenty days have passed and Israel is still counting its dead. It took weeks to collect all the bodies. Some bodies were burned like pieces of coal - it is almost impossible to identify them. Yet this resolution does not even name Hamas, as if this war started on its own.” (INN / VFI News)

Thousands of Military Reservists from NYC Rushed to Israel to Fight Hamas; Thousands of Israeli military reservists and former soldiers living in New York City have packed up their bags to join the fight against terrorists intent on wiping the Jewish state off the map. More than 3,000 IDF reservists have been called up from across the United States to fight for Israel, with 2,000 alone coming from New York, according to Itay Milner, a spokesman for the Israeli consulate in New York. Three days after Hamas slaughtered more than 1,400 people in Israel, Ariel Nurieli didn’t think twice about ditching his math and computer science coursework at Columbia University to reenlist in the Israeli Defense Forces. “People say, ‘Wow you left everything behind’... but if we don’t do this there won’t be anything to come back to,” Nurieli, 25, told American media from the frontlines of Israel’s northern region. “We have to make sure there’s a place that will always welcome the Jewish people, no matter what,” he said. “There’s no doubt that being in New York, it was like being in a war without a weapon on you,” said Lihi, a 24-year-old Columbia student, IDF reservist, and native of Tel Aviv. Lihi, who is stationed at Israel’s northern border as the operations head for an elite commander unit, said she ironically feels “the most secure” on the front lines, having been chased on New York City streets for speaking her native Hebrew to her mother and attacked for posting signs of civilians kidnapped by Hamas terrorists. The anti-Semitic atmosphere permeating her campus and the city “was the trigger to be back home,” she said, adding many of her Columbia friends today are scared to leave their apartments and are even suffering panic attacks. (NYP / VFI News)

NYC Street Vendors Cheer Hamas Terrorism on Israel: ‘Leave Our Land’; Their views are hard to swallow. New York City’s omnipresent halal and other street vendors expressed near universal support for Hamas with many telling American media that the terror group’s October 7 attack in Israel which killed more than 1,400 people was justified. “I am Muslim. I am Egyptian. We support Gaza,” declared a Columbus Circle vendor who would only provide his first name, Ahmed. “Hamas no attacks Israel. Hamas defends herself. Hamas is self-defense, to protect Islam,” he continued. “Leave our land. No place to Jewish. Israel must leave.” When asked if Hamas’ attacks in Israel were a “good thing” — Ahmed responded yes. “I support Palestine and Hamas army is Palestine and she defend her land. Our land.” Times Square vendor Mahmahoud El-Ser, 25, similarly said: “I am so so sorry for Gaza and the people of Gaza. F–k terrorism of Israel. Inshallah one day Gaza is free.” About 57% of American Muslims said they believed Hamas “was justified in attacking Israel as part of their struggle for a Palestinian state,” according to a survey from Cygnal. Meanwhile, hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters forced the temporary closure of Grand Central Terminal during the Friday evening rush, on October 27, as they staged a massive sit-in inside the station’s concourse — leading to dozens of arrests. (NYP / VFI News)



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