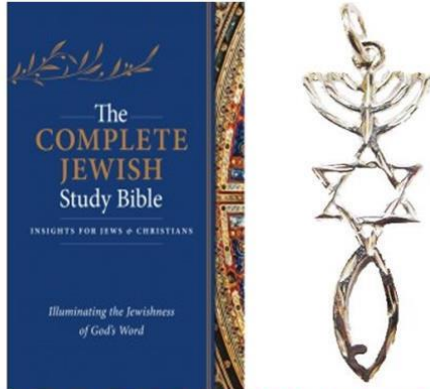


Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update December 18, 2023 (Tevet 6, 5784)

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Israel-Hamas War, Day 73

Two Additional Officers Killed in Gaza Combat, IDF Says; U.S. Secretary of Defense Visits Israel Amid Potential Hostage Deal Advisor

- Mossad chief Barnea meets in Warsaw with head of CIA, Qatari PM
- Israel woman wounded in West Bank shooting, IDF publishes names of five fallen soldiers
 - U.S. Secretary of Defense Austin meets with Israel's war cabinet
- Pro-Israel hackers claim responsibility for putting 70 percent of Iran's gas stations out of commission
- Two more Hamas tunnels located in Gaza ■ At least 1,200 civilians and soldiers killed in Israel since Oct. 7; at least 130 hostages held in Gaza
 - Hamas-run health ministry: 19,453 killed, 52,286 wounded in Gaza

Shalom Mishpocha.

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Hamas Terrorists Surrender en Masse as IDF Fights Inside Gaza Hospital; IDF troops from the 460th Combat Brigade of the 162nd Division operated in the Kamal Adwan Hospital area with the Shin Bet, with scores of Hamas terrorists being killed or detained. During the operation, the IDF troops located a building close to the hospital that Hamas terrorists were using. An exchange of fire took place, in which several Hamas terrorists were killed. Some 70 terrorists surrendered and left the building with their weapons and were detained and taken for interrogation by the Shin Bet. Kamal Adwan Hospital is in the Beit Lahiya area north of Gaza City, near the Israeli border. In mid-October, various media outlets quoted Hussam Abu Safiya, head of pediatrics at the hospital in northern Gaza, saying it did not evacuate despite calls to do so by Israel. The UN had warned that hospitals would run out of fuel in two days on October 15. The fuel continued to flow despite the warnings. On November 4, American media reported that “MedGlobal, a US-based organization that supports local health programs for vulnerable populations across the globe, issued an urgent appeal for fuel to power a generator at Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza.” Images and videos have been circulating all week of Hamas terrorists surrendering to Israeli troops en masse as the terror group continues to lose control over the coastal region. (JPost / VFI News)

IDF Offers: \$400K Reward for Hamas Leader's Location; The IDF on Thursday, December 14, distributed flyers in Gaza, promising a financial reward of \$100,000 or more to anyone who brings reliable information regarding the locations of Hamas leaders. According to the flyer, the IDF will pay a sum of \$400,000 for information leading to the location of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, and \$300,000 for help in locating his brother Mahmoud. A sum of \$200,000 will be given in exchange for information leading to the finding of Rafeh Salama, commander of Hamas’ Khan Younis Brigade, and details leading to the location of Mohammed Deif will be rewarded with \$100,000. The flyer promised that the information would be given in complete secrecy, and provided a telephone number to those wishing to contact the IDF with tip-offs. Last week, media reported that according to an Israeli source, Sinwar succeeded in leaving Gaza City in a humanitarian convoy exiting the city and is now in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis. (INN / VFI News)

Hamas Gunmen Target Palestinian Civilians — from the Top of Aid Trucks;

Hamas terrorists could be seen in recent videos riding on top of humanitarian aid trucks as they were driving into Gaza, fully armed, and pointing their weapons at civilians in the street below. Reports in recent weeks have raised widespread concern that those aid trucks — which are supposed to be delivering food, medicines, and other supplies to civilians — were at risk of being confiscated by Hamas and never being delivered to the citizens of Gaza. “Hamas gunmen on top of aid trucks that have entered the Gaza Strip shoot at Palestinian civilians,” Joe Truzman, a “research analyst focusing on Palestinian armed groups and non-state actors in the Middle East,” captioned the video he posted on X. UNRWA, the United Nations Agency for Palestinian Refugees, called for additional aid to Gaza on Monday, December 11, saying, “Too many people haven’t eaten now for two, three days in the #GazaStrip @UNRWA colleagues are doing everything they can with what little they have – but food, water, and fuel are being systematically used as weapons of war in #Gaza. Hunger stalks everyone.” Other reports have shown that when civilians attempt to rush the aid trucks — in an effort to get food and water before Hamas terrorists have the chance to steal it — gunmen open fire on them. In this context, and amid persistent accusations that the UNRWA glorifies terror against Israel, the lower house of the Swiss parliament has voted to cancel the funding it provides the organization. The decision made Tuesday sees Switzerland move to cut some \$21 million in annual funding from the United Nations Relief Works Agency. Switzerland was the ninth-biggest donor. (DW / VFI News)

Report: Israel Begins Flooding Hamas Tunnels with Seawater; The move, still in its early stages, is one of several techniques Israel is using in its operation to eliminate the Hamas terror group. A spokesperson for Israel’s Defense Minister Yoav Gallant declined to comment to a renowned American news outlet, saying that “tunnel operations are classified.” The news outlet’s report quoted US officials as saying that Israel has installed seven industrial pumps and began the process around when it added the last two pumps to the initial five and conducted initial testing. The process is expected to last several weeks, the report added. US officials have expressed doubts about the effectiveness or feasibility of flooding a complex estimated to include hundreds of kilometers of tunnels, and have pointed out that doing so could damage Gaza’s agriculture and freshwater supply. Israel is reportedly still examining whether or not flooding the tunnels is a realistic strategy, although Israeli officials have thus far declined to comment on the operation. On Tuesday evening, December 12, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant stated that the IDF was locating and destroying Hamas military infrastructure deep underground, as well as killing hundreds of terrorists in the effort. (INN / VFI News)

Syria: The Road to Peace Goes Through Conflict; The President of Syria, Bashar Assad, addressed the gathering in Damascus to the readiness of his army against Israel and said “Resistance is a legitimate right of our people and it will exist as long as there is an occupation on our land.” Assad confirmed that political negotiations are underway between Israel and his country, through a third country, and added that the talks between Israel and Syria should be conducted seriously and take place in accordance with the UN resolutions, “Israel knows what is acceptable to us and what is not acceptable to us.” Assad referred to the issue of the Golan Heights and said “Resistance is the legitimate right of our people and it will remain so as long as the occupation remains on the homeland. The road to peace goes through a confrontation with the depriving power,” Assad said. “My country is preparing for war with Israel, this is an existing possibility,” however, the Syrian President said that he does not foresee such a war taking place under the current circumstances. “None of us rule out the option of war, but there is a debate as to whether Israel will declare war on Lebanon and Syria or whether America will declare war on Iran... We know that there are those in the American government who want this war and we are preparing for the worst.” (INN / VFI News)

US: A Trusted Ally and Friend of Israel; US President Joe Biden on Monday night, December 11, hosted the annual Hanukkah celebration at the White House. “Hanukkah is a timeliness story of miracles. But we know this year’s Hanukkah is different,” he said. Noting his support for the Jewish people, Biden stated, “You don’t have to be a Jew to be a Zionist and I’m a Zionist... folks, were there no Israel there wouldn’t be a Jew in the world who was safe.” Biden also stressed the US will “continue to provide military assistance to Israel until they get rid of Hamas, but we have to be careful—they have to be careful.” Meanwhile, the US House of Representatives on Wednesday passed a bipartisan resolution condemning antisemitism on college campuses. Further, White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby highlighted, also on Wednesday, some of the steps the IDF has taken to prevent civilian casualties in Gaza, noting that some of Israel’s steps might go further than what the US would do. “They moved into southern Gaza on the ground in a way that was much smaller than they planned to do,” he told reporters. “They have published online maps of places where people can go or not go. That’s basically telegraphing your punches! There are very few modern militaries in the world that would do that! I don’t know that we would do that!” (INN / VFI News)

Mossad Foils Attempted Attack on Jews in Denmark; The Mossad, Israel’s elite intelligence agency foiled an attack against Jews in Denmark, the Prime Minister’s Office announced on Thursday, December 14. “Thanks to an intensive and comprehensive intelligence investigation, today the security and law enforcement bodies in Denmark arrested seven terrorist operatives acting on behalf of the terrorist organization Hamas, and foiled an attack aimed at killing innocent citizens on European soil,” the PMO stated in its announcement. “In recent years, and even more so after the murderous attack on October 7, Hamas strives to expand its operational capabilities around the world and in Europe in particular in order to realize its ambitions to strike Israeli, Jewish, and Western targets at any cost.” “The terrorist organization Hamas works indiscriminately and in every way it can to expand its deadly activities to Europe, thus posing a threat to the internal security of these countries. The Mossad and the Shin Bet will continue to operate with their partners in Israel and around the world in order to thwart the intentions of Hamas and eliminate its capabilities,” the PMO’s statement concluded. “I’m grateful for the work of the authorities, but it shows what kind of situation we are in in Denmark,” Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said. “For a number of years now, we’ve been able to state that some people who live in Denmark want to harm us. They are against our democracy, freedom, and are against Danish society.” (INN / VFI News)

Jewish Couple Targeted in Bloody Beverly Hills Attack Says Antisemitism Has Hit a Level They've 'Never' Seen Before; An elderly Jewish couple was attacked while on the way to a synagogue in Beverly Hills and spoke out about the terrifying assault, warning they’ve never seen this level of antisemitism before in their lives. Rebecca and Raphael Nissel discussed the bloody attack and their take on surging antisemitism amid the war in Gaza on American media. At one point, when asked if she had ever seen anti-Jewish hate as bad as it is now, Rebecca replied, “No, never.” “It started a couple of years ago, maybe during COVID, and it slowly deteriorated... I started to stash away my jewelry into safes, and it was very awful to understand at this point that it went up since the Israel-Hamas war 300%.” The suspect of the attack, now in police custody, allegedly lashed Raphael in the head with a belt buckle Saturday morning, December 9, and yelled at Rebecca, “Give me your earrings, Jew!” before leaving the scene. Raphael’s shirt was covered with blood following the attack. He was wearing a yarmulke at the time. The pair said they are okay now, but Raphael noted “much more could be done” to combat anti-Jewish hate as it plagues colleges and communities alike. He argued the solution lies within education, warning that higher institutions are “sending the wrong message” to students, as hate-filled rhetoric continues to fill university classrooms. According to the Anti-Defamation League, antisemitism has spiked 388% since the Israel-Hamas war began. (FN / VFI News)

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