

# **Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update November 28, 2024 (Cheshvan 27, 5785)**



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## ***Israel-Hamas War, Day 419***

### ***Lebanese Army Deploys Forces in South Lebanon; IDF Imposes Curfew on Residents Moving South of Litani River***

- ***LEBANON: Cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah goes into effect; IDF fires at suspects entering no-go zone in southern Lebanon***
  - ***ISRAEL: Netanyahu says Lebanon cease-fire aims to isolate Hamas, focus on Iran***
  - ***GAZA: White House announces it will renew efforts to broker a Gaza cease-fire; Hamas reportedly ready for cease-fire following Lebanon truce***
  - ***LEBANON: Biden expected to announce Israel-Lebanon cease-fire***
  - ***ISRAEL: Netanyahu says Lebanon cease-fire aims to isolate Hamas, focus on Iran***
  - ***GAZA: Reports of 15 killed in Israeli strike on shelter in Gaza City***
- ***THE HAGUE: Italian foreign minister says G7 working on united position on ICC arrest warrant for Netanyahu***

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***Iran to Launch 'New and Advanced' Centrifuges in Response to IAEA Resolution;*** Iran announced on Friday, November 22, plans to launch a “significant series of new and advanced” centrifuges in response to a resolution adopted on Thursday by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which censured Tehran for what it described as a lack of cooperation, French media reported. The resolution, introduced by Britain, France, Germany, and the United States, follows a similar measure passed in June. According to diplomats, China, Russia, and Burkina Faso opposed the resolution, which passed with 19 votes in favor, 12 abstentions, and Venezuela abstaining from the vote. In a joint statement on Friday, Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization and the foreign ministry said, as quoted by the French news outlet, “The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran issued an order to take effective measures, including launching a significant series of new and advanced centrifuges of various types.” The joint Iranian statement noted that technical and safeguards cooperation with the IAEA would continue under existing agreements. Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesperson for Iran’s atomic energy organization, confirmed that the new measures focus on expanding uranium enrichment, saying, “We will substantially increase the enrichment capacity with the utilization of different types of advanced machines.” (*INN / VFI News*)

***Mossad Probing Disappearance of Rabbi in UAE in Possible Terror Case;*** Chabad emissary Rabbi Zvi Kogan is suspected of having been kidnapped and murdered in the United Arab Emirates by Islamic terrorists who have escaped to Turkey, Hebrew media reported on Saturday, November 23. Israel’s Mossad and UAE intelligence agencies are investigating the case after Kogan stopped communicating with his family on Wednesday. The Israeli Prime Minister’s Office issued a statement on behalf of Mossad and the National Security Council, saying “Israeli intelligence and security agencies are working tirelessly for the safety and well-being of Zvi Kogan. The National Security Council has previously issued a Level 3 travel warning (moderate threat) for the United Arab Emirates, advising against non-essential travel to the destination and recommending heightened precautions for those staying there.” Kogan is an emissary for the Abu Dhabi Chabad branch and runs a kosher supermarket in the UAE. Chabad is one of the largest religious Jewish organizations in the world, with branches in scores of countries. Security officials told the Hebrew news outlet that “we know he was followed in the kosher supermarket that he managed in Abu Dhabi. His traces disappeared this week. We understand that those responsible [for his disappearance] have escaped to Turkey. His body has not been found.” (*JNS / VFI News*)

***Cigarettes for \$1,000: Regulated Aid in Gaza Leads to Rise in Looters, Smugglers;*** A report from an American news outlet highlights the growing strength of smuggling gangs in Gaza, which have capitalized on restrictions on the entry of goods. These groups now control the flow of multiple products, including tobacco. Cigarettes, in particular, have become a form of currency, reportedly selling for up to \$1,000 per pack. About two weeks ago, the Kissufim border crossing reopened for the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, alleviating some of the immense strain on residents who had endured severe shortages during October, when minimal aid was allowed in. This reopening also averted an American threat to impose an arms embargo. However, conditions in Gaza have drastically changed since the war

began. The blockade and tightly regulated aid have led to the resurgence of the smuggling industry. Tobacco products, now more expensive than ever and in greater demand, have become a critical commodity. Control over these goods has given immense power to those handling them, allowing them to operate largely without interference from IDF in designated closed areas. The United Nations humanitarian coordinator for Gaza described cigarette smuggling as a “real cancer.” (*JPost/VFI News*)

***Hotel in Texas Hosts Two Speakers Tied to Hamas, Muslim Brotherhood;*** The Hilton Hotel in Houston Westchase was reported to host an event featuring two speakers with alleged ties to terror organizations, including Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood. The event - named “From horror to hope: A benefit event for Gaza aid” – was scheduled for November 23 and was reported to feature keynote speaker Linda Sarsour and Motivational speaker Monzer Taleb. Sarsour is a well-known anti-Israel activist of Palestinian descent, who Arabic media reported to be tied to the Muslim Brotherhood. Sheikh Taleb works for the charity Baitulmaal, which has been reported to fund Hamas proxies, according to Focus on Western Islamism (FWI). Baitulmaal was created by Palestinian-Jordanian Hasan Hajmohammad, who was arrested in Israel in 2006 for funding a Hamas front organization, according to American media. (*JPost/VFI News*)

***IDF Finding Far More Russian Arms in Hezbollah's Possession than Expected – Report;*** Israeli troops operating in south Lebanon have encountered larger amounts of Russian weaponry in the possession of Hezbollah than the military had expected, according to a report Tuesday, November 19. Many of the weapons were originally owned by the Syrian military, which has been supplied by Russia for years, American media reported, citing Syrian security officials and an Arab official. However, it is unclear exactly how the weapons reached the Lebanese terror group. Both Russia and Hezbollah fought on the side of Syria’s President Bashar Assad in the Syrian civil war. Hezbollah’s cache of modern, sophisticated weaponry far exceeded prior military estimates in both quantity and capability, the report said, bolstering the group’s ability to strike and kill Israeli soldiers. An IDF commander who heads the National Munition Disassembly Lab told the media that 60-70% of arms found in the first days of the ground operation were Russian-made. Among those weapons were Kornet anti-tank missiles made as recently as 2020, the report said. (*TOI/VFI News*)

***Jewish Billionaire Who Donated to Israel, Howard Lutnick, Will Be U.S. Secretary of Commerce;*** U.S. President-elect Donald Trump announced on Tuesday, November 19, that he had nominated Howard Lutnick, Chairman & CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald, as the United States Secretary of Commerce in his administration. “He will lead our Tariff and Trade agenda, with additional direct responsibility for the Office of the United States Trade Representative,” Trump said in a statement announcing the move. Lutnick, 63, serves as the co-chair of Trump’s presidential transition team and had been in a battle with Scott Bessent over the role of Treasury Secretary. Lutnick, who is Jewish, joined Cantor Fitzgerald in 1983 and rapidly rose through the ranks to become President and CEO of the company at the age of 29. On September 11, 2001, when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center, Cantor Fitzgerald lost 658 of its 960 New York-based employees, including Lutnick's brother, Gary Lutnick. Lutnick is a staunch supporter of Israel. This past June, he announced that the Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund would make a \$7 million donation to support those impacted by the war in Israel, a portion of which would go directly to United Hatzalah. (*INN/VFI News*)

***New U.S. Attorney General, Pam Bondi, Has Said She Would Support a Tougher Stance on Pro-Hamas Protesters;*** Pam Bondi, whom U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has tapped to be his attorney general, said last year that campus protesters who express support for Hamas should face FBI questioning. Trump named Bondi, who served as Florida attorney general from 2011 to 2019, on Thursday, November 24. The nomination came after his first pick, the scandal-plagued former Florida

Rep. Matt Gaetz, withdrew following meetings with Republican senators, who apparently made clear that allegations of sexual predation and drug use, which he has denied, would bury him. Bondi's confirmation process is expected to face fewer hurdles. On Friday, Jewish media uncovered an interview Bondi had given last year about the spike in anti-Israel protests on American campuses following Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, which sparked Israel's multi-front war. "The thing that really was troubling to me, these students in universities in our country — whether they're here as Americans or if they're here on student visas — and they're out there saying, 'I support Hamas,'" she said in the Oct. 23, 2023, interview. "Frankly, they need to be taken out of our country, or the FBI needs to be interviewing them right away when they're saying, 'I support Hamas. I am Hamas.' That's not saying I support all these poor Palestinians who are trapped in Gaza." (*INN / VFI News*)

***New Zealand Designates Houthis, Entire Hezbollah as Terror Organizations;*** The government of New Zealand has officially designated Hezbollah, both its military and political wings, as well as the Houthi rebel group in Yemen as terror organizations. Prime Minister Christopher Luxon also re-designated Somalia's Al-Shabaab and Kurdish PKK as terror organizations, while removing the designation of Basque group ETA lapse. "It's very simple. For any organization to be deemed a terrorist organization under New Zealand legislation, we have to have evidence, and we go through a number of tests under our legislation, that organization has knowingly undertaken terrorist activity," Luxon said. "This is the case before the four that I've designated today." Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar congratulated the decision on Hezbollah and the Houthis: "I congratulate the government of New Zealand on its decision today to designate Hezbollah and the Houthis (Ansar Allah) as terrorist organizations. New Zealand has now become the 30th country in the world to designate Hezbollah, in its entirety, as a terrorist organization." (*INN / VFI News*)



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