

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update January 06, 2025 (Tevet 6, 5785)



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Israel-Hamas War, Day 458

Israeli Army Withdraws From Southwest Lebanon, Transfers Control to Local Army

- **ISRAEL:** Three Israelis killed in WB shooting attack, eight wounded; Two IDF soldiers seriously wounded in northern Gaza
- **GAZA:** List of hostages to be released in first stage of potential deal published; Hamas yet to confirm status of hostages
 - **LEBANON:** U.S. Envoy Hochstein in Beirut for Lebanon cease-fire monitoring meeting
 - **WEST BANK:** Israeli security forces deployed to deter possible revenge acts for WB shooting
 - **ISRAEL:** Yemen's Houthis target Israel's largest power plant in overnight missile attack
 - **GAZA:** Gaza Health Ministry: Last operational hospital in northern Gaza has been shut down
 - **WEST BANK:** Palestinian Health Ministry reports 18-year-old killed by IDF fire in West Bank
- **LEBANON:** Defense Minister Katz: 'If Hezbollah doesn't disarm and withdraw past the Litani River – there won't be a [cease-fire] deal' with Lebanon

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If you are interested in having Yachad Ministries to come your church and share about what is going on in Israel and the Middle East, and how the Bible is unfolding right in front of our eyes.

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Sirens in Central Israel, IAF Intercepts Missile Fired from Yemen; Sirens were activated on Monday evening, December 30, in dozens of cities in central Israel, after a missile was launched from Yemen towards Israel. The IDF Spokesperson's Unit stated, "Following the sirens that sounded a short while ago in Central Israel, a missile launched from Yemen was intercepted by the IAF prior to crossing into Israeli territory." It added that sirens were sounded due to the possibility of falling fragments from the interception. Pieces from the interception were found in the cities of Beit Shemesh and Rehovot. About 25 minutes after the sirens departures and arrivals at Ben Gurion Airport resumed after being halted. During the siren, an 18-year-old girl was hit by a vehicle while on her way to a shelter in Yavne. Medics and paramedics from Magen David Adom provided her with medical treatment and evacuated her to Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot, where she was listed in light condition. Tel Aviv District police conducted additional operational searches in the area following reports, to locate and isolate impact zones, if any, to assist the public. (INN / VFI News)

Danon at the UN Against Houthis; Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, addressed the Security Council and responded harshly to the ballistic missile attacks by the Iranian-backed Houthis against Israel. At Israel's request, the UN Security Council convened on Monday, December 30, for an emergency session on the Iran-backed Houthi attacks against Israel. Ambassador Danon said: "The Houthis fired missiles at the school where I attended as a child – my school, in my city. This is terrorism against children." He turned to the Security Council representatives and asked: "What would you do if it were your child? Your school? Your city? If you didn't speak up when our schools were hit, don't speak up when we respond ... Don't demand 'restraint' from a nation protecting its children." Ambassador Danon presented a map showing the distance between Israel and Yemen and added: "Israel does not share a border with Yemen, and yet the Houthis, who are used as a tool of Iran, send missiles and drones to attack innocent civilians. 2,000 kilometers will not protect terrorists from Israel's might. This is not a warning - it is a promise: the Houthis will suffer the same miserable fate as Hamas and Hezbollah." (INN/VFI News)

Hostage Negotiations: Israeli Delegation to Leave for Qatar; An Israeli delegation leaves today, January 3, for negotiations in Doha, Qatar, in another attempt to reach a deal that would free the hostages. The Prime Minister's Office stated that Prime Minister Netanyahu "approved the professional-level delegation of the Mossad, the IDF, and the ISA to continue the negotiations in Doha." The Hostage's Families Forum commented that it "congratulates the decision to send the Israeli delegation to Qatar. We can not miss this window of opportunity! For 100 hostages being held in the depths of the Hamas tunnels in Gaza, there is no time for the negotiations to be dragged out." The forum added: "We demand that the Prime Minister grant the negotiations team the full mandate to reach a deal that would ensure the return of

all the hostages, until the last one - the living for rehabilitation and the murdered and fallen for proper burial.” (*INN / VFI News*)

15 Dead, Dozens Wounded, in New Orleans Ramming Attack; At least 15 people were killed and over 30 injured during New Year’s celebrations in New Orleans, Louisiana, when a commercial vehicle rammed into partygoers. Two of the injured are Israeli citizens, Israel’s Foreign Ministry announced. The attack occurred at the intersection of Canal and Bourbon Street in the city’s French Quarter, which had been closed to traffic due to the celebrations. The suspect was identified by law enforcement as 42-year-old Shamsud Din Jabbar, a US citizen born and raised in Texas. The FBI said it had recovered an Islamic State (ISIS) flag in the pickup truck. The driver exited the vehicle after the ramming and opened fire. Officials at a press conference said that they were aggressively hunting for additional suspects and did not believe Jabbar acted alone. New Orleans Police Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick described the ramming as “very intentional,” and said that the driver was going “very fast.” A Louisiana State Police bulletin obtained by American media said surveillance footage captured three men and a woman placing one of multiple improvised explosive devices. “There were improvised explosive devices found, and we are working on confirming if they are viable devices or not,” Assistant Special Agent in Charge for the FBI’s New Orleans office Alethea Duncan said. (*INN/VFI News*)

PA Reconsidering Mechanism for Paying Terrorists; Israeli media reported that the Palestinian Authority is considering changing its policy of paying stipends to terrorists. This is the first time such a change has been considered. The change was indicated in the PA’s response, through its counsel, given in the course of a lawsuit for compensation to the families of terror victims that is currently being conducted in the Jerusalem District Court. According to the report, the attorney representing the Authority admitted in a hearing held this week that the new law for compensating victims of terror, which was passed in June of last year, is a dramatic change that has led the Authority to reconsider its policy of paying terrorists. Among other provisions, the law calls for funds intended for terrorists to be frozen and paid to their victims instead. “This is a statutory provision that changes the world as we know it in the field of torts and compensation. In light of this dramatic change, we request that we be allowed to bring evidence such as changes in legislation and policy on the part of the defendant. Intensive discussions are underway, and there may be a significant change in this area,” the lawyer argued. (*INN/VFI News*)

Iran to Hold Nuclear Talks with France, Britain, and Germany on January 13; Iran is set to engage in nuclear discussions with France, Britain, and Germany on January 13 in Switzerland, French media reported on Wednesday, January 1, citing local media. Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, emphasized that these discussions are “consultations, not negotiations.” The European nations had previously, on December 17, accused Iran of amassing high-enriched uranium to “unprecedented levels” without “any credible civilian justification.” Britain, France, and Germany recently hinted at potentially invoking the “snap back” mechanism from the 2015 nuclear deal that could allow for the reinstatement of previously lifted sanctions on Iran. “In exchange (for the lifting of sanctions), we create more confidence in the peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear program,” Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi remarked to Iranian media on Wednesday, adding, “If the other party does not like this path, it is natural that we follow our own path, as we have done in recent years.” Araqchi recently said that “2025 will be an important year regarding Iran’s nuclear issue” as the country faces the potential return of Trump’s “maximum pressure” policy. The January 13 talks come just a week before Trump’s return to the White House. (*INN /VFI News*)

Minister Avi Dichter: ‘Turkey Is Becoming the New Iran in Syria’; Agriculture and Food Security Minister Avi Dichter sat down with Israeli media to discuss the state of the war against Hamas and other recent developments in the Middle East such as the fall of the Assad regime in Syria. Dichter warned about

the new regime led by Ahmed al-Sharaa (also known as Abu Mohammad al-Julani) in Syria and Turkey's growing influence in the country following the overthrow of the Assad regime. "The new regime in Syria, people are not aware of where they come from. Abu Mohammad al-Julani, the new leader, he's part of Al Qaeda. His spiritual leader, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, was neck-to-neck with Osama Bin Laden. It means that when a new regime like that is leading Syria ... to believe that those people will become rabbis in the future and will lead them in the way that we expect them to do so, I doubt it." "They will take a few years in order to get support from Arab countries, and we can hear from Qatar and the Emirates and other countries." "We have to be well-prepared and to make sure that Syria is not building itself under a Sunni regime - unlike the Alawite Regime - but as Israel remains its enemy and they will allow other countries, mainly Turkey, [outside influence in Syria]. Turkey is becoming the new Iran in Syria," Dichter added. "Iran supported Bashar al-Assad, Turkey supports Abu Mohammad al-Julani, and as we all know, Turkey is not our best ally as it used to be before. The only difference is that Iran was not part of NATO and Turkey is part of NATO," he said. (INN/ VFI News)

Assad's Fall Enables Access to Ruined 2,700-Year-Old Damascus Synagogue; Only 9 Jews Remain; In one Damascus suburb in the Jobar neighborhood, the handful of remaining Jews in Syria can again make pilgrimages to one of the world's oldest synagogues where people from throughout the region once came to pray. Syria's 13-year civil war left the synagogue largely destroyed. Walls and roofs have collapsed. Some artifacts are missing. A marble sign in Arabic at the gate says it was first built 720 years before Christ. Since insurgents overthrew President Bashar al-Assad in early December, people have been able to safely visit the widely destroyed Jobar suburb that was pounded for years by government forces while in the hands of opposition fighters. Syria was once home to one of the world's largest Jewish communities. Those numbers have shrunk dramatically, especially after the State of Israel was created in 1948 and following anti-Jewish riots and persecution. Today, only nine Jews live in Syria, according to the head of the community, almost all older men and women. The Jewish community in Syria dates back to the prophet Elijah's Damascus sojourn nearly 3,000 years ago. (TOI / VFI News)

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