

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update October 20, 2025 (Tishrei 28, 5786)



[For the Yachad Report Newsletter For October 2025](#)

Donate



Israel-Hamas Cease-fire

Hamas Expected to Hand Over Body of Hostage on Monday Evening, Israeli Official Says

- *Witkoff, Kushner land in Israel for Gaza talks; Khamenei tells Trump to 'keep dreaming' of destroying Iran nuclear facilities*
 - *Hamas to hand over body of deceased hostage at 8 P.M. local time, Israeli official says*
 - *Freed hostage Rom Braslavski discharged from hospital*
- *Israel to resume cease-fire after day of strikes, following clash with Hamas which killed two IDF soldiers*

Donate



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.

Please contact Jeffery @ Yachad Ministries

Phone 770-641-3000 ext. 6

E-mail yachad@mindspring.com



Hamas Urges Mediators to Follow Up on Ceasefire Provisions, Says Gaza Needs Community Committee; Hamas called on international mediators to press forward with the remaining provisions of the Gaza ceasefire, saying the next stage must include reopening crossings, scaling up humanitarian aid, and beginning reconstruction. In a statement, the group also said a community support committee should be completed and begin work administering day-to-day affairs in the Strip, presenting it as a mechanism to stabilize services after years of war. The appeal came amid mutual recriminations over delays and compliance, even as fighting has largely fallen silent. A central point of friction is the timetable for the return of deceased hostages' bodies alongside post-war governance arrangements. Israel has accused Hamas of dragging its feet on the recovery process, while Hamas has said the task is complicated by devastation on the ground and ongoing security constraints. Mediators have sought to keep the framework intact by sequencing steps on aid, reconstruction, and civilian administration while avoiding moves that could collapse the deal. The proposal to seat a local committee highlights a wider struggle over who will run Gaza during the transition—how services will be delivered, who issues permits, and how security is coordinated. For now, the ceasefire's next phase remains contingent on parallel progress: more aid into Gaza, credible movement on the remains of hostages, and clarity about who holds administrative responsibility. The outcome will shape not only humanitarian relief but also the political balance in the territory. (*JPost/VFI News*)

Father of Hostage: 'I Can Finally Say That My Son Was a Soldier'; Avi Ohana, father of Yosef Chaim Ohana, described the agony and relief of finally being able to acknowledge his son's military service following the young man's release from captivity. During the long months when every detail might be used to harm a hostage, families often live in a hush—measuring every word, scrubbing social media, and praying through the silence. The reunion brought gratitude, but also the sober recognition that healing from trauma is a process measured in seasons, not headlines. His account offered a window into the unseen burdens borne by hostage families: the daily uncertainty, the dread of rumors, the fear that hope itself might invite disappointment. Even in moments of joy, the need for privacy and stability remains acute as survivors begin medical evaluations, counseling, and a carefully managed return to ordinary rhythms. Loved ones are learning to let rest, nourishment, and time do their quiet work. As advocacy groups renew attention to those still missing, the family's testimony reinforces a simple plea: do not forget. Each name still in captivity represents a life suspended, and each homecoming will require resources and patience long after the first embrace. Communities of faith and care can sustain this marathon with practical help and persistent intercession. (*INN/VFI News*)

'He Was Put in a Pit': The Appalling Torture of Yosef Chaim in Hamas Captivity; New details from the captivity of Yosef Chaim describe brutal conditions, including confinement likened to being "put in a pit." Accounts of isolation, intimidation, and physical abuse underscore the profound damage inflicted on hostages and the years of specialized care many will require. Families, clinicians, and community leaders are preparing for long-term interventions that address not only physical wounds but also trauma's lingering shadows. Testimonies like these recalibrate public understanding of what captivity means.

Beyond the headlines are fractured sleep, fear of enclosed spaces, and sudden waves of memory that can hijack an ordinary day. Survivors often face a difficult balance: receiving support without being defined by their suffering, reclaiming agency while navigating medical and legal processes that can be exhausting in their own right. Such stories also reinforce the urgency of ongoing rescue and diplomatic efforts. They summon moral clarity in a discourse that can drift toward abstraction and remind us that hostages are not bargaining chips but image-bearers whose dignity has been assaulted. The imperative is twofold: relentless work to bring them home and relentless love to help them live again. (*INN/VFI News*)

Sunni Candidate Killed Ahead of Iraq's November Parliamentary Elections; A prominent Sunni parliamentary candidate was assassinated in Iraq weeks before the country's November vote, a grim reminder of how fragile the political landscape remains. The brazen killing—described as the most high-profile attack tied to the current election cycle—sent shockwaves through Baghdad and the provinces where campaigning has only tentatively begun. Parties traded accusations while security services scrambled to project control, even as the investigation's early hours highlighted the same gaps and rivalries that have plagued prior attempts to bring such perpetrators to justice. The attack threatens to suppress turnout in key districts, particularly where independent candidates depend on public rallies and face-to-face outreach. Campaign teams reevaluated events, weighing whether their presence in certain neighborhoods invites unacceptable risk, and whether voters will feel safe enough to stand in line on election day. In a system already riddled with militia influence, the intimidation of challengers can quietly reshape the ballot by sidelining those without armed backing or deep patronage networks. The stakes extend beyond who claims parliamentary seats. Each shock to the electoral process strains trust in institutions built slowly since Iraq's last large-scale conflicts, and it risks entrenching the notion that violence, not persuasion, sets the terms of political life. Diplomats and civil-society monitors urged stronger protections for candidates and poll workers, yet meaningful deterrence will require consistent enforcement—not only statements of concern. (*JPost/VFI News*)

Sport Court Rejects Israeli Appeals After Indonesia Denies Visas for Gymnastics Championship; The Court of Arbitration for Sport declined appeals after Indonesian authorities refused visas to Israeli gymnasts, effectively barring their participation in a world championship event. For athletes who train for years for moments like these, the decision lands as a profound loss—an erasure of opportunity that can never be replayed. It also highlights how promises of neutrality in international sport can falter when host nations inject politics into the gatekeeping process. Sports administrators argued for consistent standards that penalize hosts who break participation guarantees and, where necessary, reassign venues automatically. Without clear consequences, discriminatory exclusions risk becoming a template: signal intentions late, restrict entry at the last minute, absorb limited fallout, and proceed. The result is a chilling effect that extends far beyond one meet, signaling to federations and athletes that fairness is conditional. For Israel's competitors and their peers worldwide, the case becomes a rallying point for reform. Governing bodies face a choice between tightening enforcement or conceding that access is negotiable. The former preserves the ideal of a level playing field; the latter reduces it to a slogan. (*JPost/VFI News*)

In First Since October 7: IDF Reopening Zikim Beach Near Gaza Border; Local reports and interviews captured the mood as visitors trickled back to Zikim Beach, where new routines meet old memories. Security arrangements and defined opening hours sought to make the shoreline accessible without ignoring proximity to continuing threats. For many, returning to the sea was not merely leisure but a quiet affirmation that life, in all its ordinary beauty, is worth protecting. Those who lost loved ones described the day as complicated: joy close to the surface, grief never far beneath. Communities along Israel's southern edge have learned to carry both, refusing to cede public spaces to fear while honoring names and stories that must not be forgotten. The beach thus becomes both playground and memorial, a

place where remembrance and resilience meet. As planners observe how people move through the area, they will evaluate which additional sites can safely reopen and how to sustain a sense of normalcy without complacency. The hope is that measured steps today will support steadier rhythms tomorrow. (*INN/VFI News*)

Israeli-American Among Three Awarded Nobel Prize in Economics; An Israeli-American scholar is among three laureates honored with the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for research that deepens understanding of innovation and long-run growth. Their work has informed how policymakers and businesses think about productivity, human capital, and the diffusion of new ideas—questions that carry significant weight for economies navigating technological shifts and demographic change. The recognition resonated across Israel’s academic and tech communities, where collaboration with global networks has long been a force multiplier. The announcement arrives at a moment when leaders are searching for strategies that raise living standards without leaving communities behind. By analyzing incentives and institutions that foster invention, the laureates point to conditions that let breakthroughs spread rather than stall. The prize thus serves as both a capstone and a roadmap: it celebrates past contributions while indicating where better policy can support future gains. For students and early-career researchers, the message is encouraging: rigorous inquiry can ripple outward, shaping choices far beyond the classroom. Israel’s universities and research centers, intertwined with industry and the diaspora, see in the award a renewed mandate to pursue knowledge that serves the common good. (*TOI/VFI News*)



Robert I. Solomon: Messianic Rabbi
Jeffery Blalock: Ministries Coordinator, jeffery@yachad.com
Yachad Ministries, 950 Pine Grove Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075
E-mail: info@yachad.com, Web Page: <https://www.yachad.com>
Phone: 770-641-3000 (ext. 6)
Sharing Yeshua in unity with both Jew and Gentile

To unsubscribe [click here](#).