

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update January 22, 2026 (Shvat 3, 5786)



[For the Yachad Report Newsletter For January 2026](#)

Donate



Israel-Hamas Cease-fire; Israeli Soldier Asael Babad Dies of Wounds Sustained Months Ago in Gaza

- *Israeli police officer convicted for stun grenade use; Israeli officials: Gaza Rafah border opening to open next week*
- *Trump in Davos: 'Gaza will be beautifully rebuilt, then we can move on to other things, with UN'*
 - *Israeli police officer convicted over stun grenade use at anti-judicial overhaul protest*
 - *Israeli President Herzog: Netanyahu's criminal trials should have resolved 'amicably'*
 - *Israel raises alert level amid concerns of U.S. strike on Iran, possibly within days*
- *General strike planned for Thursday in most Arab communities to protest government inaction over high crime rates*
- *U.S. CENTCOM briefed Syrian president on U.S. plan to transfer up to 7,000 ISIS detainees from Syria to Iraq*
 - *Trump: Putin agrees to join Board of Peace; Putin: Need to review terms*

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



Standing with Israel!

Iranian Official Says Verified Protest Death Toll Reaches at Least 5,000; An Iranian official has acknowledged that nationwide demonstrations, which erupted in late December, have produced a verified death toll of at least 5,000. Independent rights monitors say thousands more cases are still under review, and report mass arrests numbering in the tens of thousands. Kurdish areas in the country's northwest have seen particularly fierce clashes, underscoring the breadth and intensity of the unrest. The US-based HRANA group recently tallied 3,308 confirmed deaths with an additional 4,382 cases being examined, alongside more than 24,000 arrests; Kurdish watchdog Hengaw highlights that some of the most violent confrontations have occurred in the northwest. The rising numbers and the official admission point to a crisis that is both national and deeply entrenched one that continues to reverberate across Iran's minorities and urban centers alike. As families search for loved ones and activists document cases in real time, the gap between verified counts and suspected casualties remains a source of anguish and urgency. International pressure is mounting, but observers caution that the government's security posture shows little sign of softening. (*TOI/VFI News*)

WEF Invites Iran's Foreign Minister to Davos, Drawing Reproach over Regime Killings; As Davos opened on Sunday, January 18, the World Economic Forum's decision to host Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi drew sharp criticism from human-rights advocates who cite the regime's deadly crackdown. The watchdog United Against Nuclear Iran said the WEF ignored its letter urging organizers to exclude Iranian officials and, instead, added an interview with Araghchi to the program. Critics argue that giving Tehran's officials a high-profile platform legitimizes a government accused of mass killings and widespread repression. WEF did not immediately comment to reporters, while advocates called the invitation out of step with this year's "dialogue" theme, pointing to reports of thousands murdered during protests and the detention of many more. Proponents of engagement often contend that dialogue can open doors on human rights, but the optics are fraught: in the same week that casualty estimates climbed, a global forum of elites appeared to roll out the welcome mat for a senior figure on Iran's national Security Council. The juxtaposition has intensified questions about accountability and moral leadership at international gatherings. (*FOX/VFI News*)

Reports: Washington Signals Broader Showdown with Iran as Nuclear Concerns Persist; Regional media and policy assessments in Washington indicate the US is seeking to force a resolution with Tehran within defined time frames, pressing the regime to abandon nuclear and missile programs and to halt interference across neighboring states. Analysts say Iran has resumed missile and drone activity and appears to be smuggling weapons to proxy militias following joint US-Israeli strikes. Officials and sources cited in reports say B-2 bomber strikes inflicted significant damage on aspects of Iran's nuclear infrastructure, though a stockpile of uranium enriched to 60% reportedly exceeding 400 kilograms remains

a central dispute with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The confluence of covert smuggling, attacks by Iranian-backed groups, and lingering nuclear questions points to a volatile year ahead. While some voices push for harder lines and others for renewed negotiations, the stakes across the region are clear: unchecked escalation could widen conflicts, while any deal would have to curb enrichment and curb Iran's regional adventurism to endure. *(INN/VFI News)*

US Attorney General Vows to Seek Death Penalty in DC Murders of Israeli Diplomats; At the Israeli-American Council summit in Florida on Friday, January 16, US Attorney General Pam Bondi said the Justice Department will pursue the death penalty against the suspect accused of murdering two Israeli Embassy staff near Washington's Capital Jewish Museum last year. Bondi, a former Florida attorney general, framed the move as part of a broader push to confront anti-Jewish hatred and escalating attacks. Addressing a packed audience, Bondi recalled the victims by name and condemned the targeting of Jews in the nation's capital. She also cited recent hate crimes, including a synagogue arson, as evidence that antisemitism has "gone unchecked" for too long and vowed to reverse that trend through prosecutions and stronger enforcement. The remarks signal the administration's intent to deploy the harshest penalties available under federal law in terrorism-linked murders, even as debates over capital punishment continue in state and federal courts. *(INN/VFI News)*

Honduras Signals Renewed Friendship with Israel as President-Elect Asfura Visits Jerusalem; Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar welcomed Honduran president-elect Nasry "Tito" Asfura in Jerusalem on Sunday, January 18, expressing confidence that under Asfura's leadership, Honduras will once again be a close friend and ally of Israel. Asfura—of Palestinian Christian descent—also met President Isaac Herzog and is slated to meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as the countries look to strengthen ties after a period of cooler relations. Jerusalem officials highlighted potential cooperation in agriculture, technology, and economic development, suggesting a broader reset that aligns values and interests. The visit continues Israel's outreach across Latin America and comes as several countries in the region reassess their Middle East policies. Beyond symbolism, both sides appear intent on practical steps that could include trade missions and development projects—signs that diplomatic warmth may translate into near-term opportunities for people-to-people and government-to-government collaboration. *(TOI/VFI News)*

US Strike Kills al-Qaeda Figure Linked to ISIS Ambush that Killed 3 Americans in Syria; US Central Command announced on Saturday, January 17, that a precision strike the previous day (Friday, January 16) in northwest Syria killed Bilal Hasan al-Jasim, described as an experienced al-Qaeda operative tied to the December 13 ambush in Palmyra that left two US service members and an American interpreter dead. Command officials said al-Jasim had been directly connected to the ISIS gunman behind the attack. CENTCOM emphasized there is "no safe place" for those who plan or carry out attacks on Americans, noting the operation followed broader strikes on ISIS infrastructure and weapons sites in response to last month's ambush. US briefings highlighted recent arrests and casualties among ISIS operatives as part of sustained pressure on the group and its affiliates. The killing of al-Jasim underscores the continued complexity of the Syrian battlefield, where remnants of ISIS networks intersect with other jihadist elements and local power centers. US officials framed the operation as part of a larger effort to prevent future attacks on American and partner forces. *(FOX/VFI News)*

Israel Job Vacancies Hit Two-Year High, with Construction and Hospitality Leading; Israel's job market is showing fresh signs of resilience. A new Central Bureau of Statistics report places the overall vacancy rate at 4.59%, the highest since November 2022. Construction posted an 8.8% vacancy rate down from its 2024 average but still elevated versus pre-war 2023—while accommodation and food services registered 8.9%. High-tech also showed early indications of renewed hiring momentum. The figures reflect a labor market still rebalancing after the disruptions of war and reserve duty. Sectors with historically

lower formal-education thresholds are absorbing demand quickly, even as employers across the economy compete to fill roles. Policymakers will watch whether the uptick endures as security conditions and global demand evolve. For jobseekers, the mix suggests opportunities in trades and services alongside a gradual reopening in tech. For employers, the priority is finding and training talent to meet near-term needs without sacrificing long-term productivity. (*INN/VFI News*)

1,300-Year-Old Menorah Pendant Unearthed Near Temple Mount; Archaeologists at the Davidson Archaeological Park in Jerusalem have uncovered a cast-lead round pendant, decorated on both sides with a seven-branched menorah and dated to roughly 1,300 years ago. The Israel Antiquities Authority says it's the first discovery of a lead pendant of this kind in an excavation, offering a rare window into Jewish devotional symbols from the period. Situated near the Temple Mount, the find adds to a growing body of artifacts that illuminate the religious life of ancient Jerusalem's residents. Its iconography, preservation, and context make it an important piece in reconstructing the continuity of Jewish presence, memory, and worship in the city across centuries. For visitors and locals alike, discoveries like this rekindle wonder and strengthen cultural ties to the city's sacred heritage—reminders that even small objects can carry the weight of a people's story. (*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](#).

()