

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update February 26, 2026 (Adar 8, 5786)



For the Yachad Report Newsletter February 2026

Donate



Israel-Hamas Cease-fire; Knesset Advances Bill That Would Outlaw Egalitarian Prayer at the Western Wall

- *Third round of U.S.-Iran nuclear talks in Geneva pause after Oman says 'creative and positive ideas' exchanged*
 - *Netanyahu and Modi sign bilateral agreements in Jerusalem*
 - *Man fatally shot in Arab Israeli town, raising 2026 homicide toll to 59*
- *Australia tells citizens in Israel, Lebanon to leave 'while commercial flights still available'*
 - *U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem announces consular services in West Bank settlement*

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



Imprisoned Iranian Protesters Are Being Tortured and Raped, Sources Say; Iranian sources revealed on Thursday, February 20, that many protesters captured by the regime's security forces during the nationwide anti-government uprising are being brutally tortured and sexually assaulted in prison before being killed. An eyewitness to the January massacre of demonstrators said they are most fearful for those who have been detained, describing daily gang rapes of both men and women by groups of police officers inside the jails. An Iranian refugee who was detained and later released described being sexually assaulted at gunpoint by masked men and being turned into a "sexual slave." Some female detainees' bodies were returned to their families with their wombs surgically removed to conceal evidence of the abuse. One woman's body, returned 25 days after her arrest, showed clear signs of torture and burns. Shaghayegh Moradiannejad, an Iranian photographer who fled the country five years ago, confirmed that rape and torture have always been the regime's method of suppressing dissent. President Trump urged Iranian protesters on January 13 to keep fighting, writing on Truth Social that he had cancelled all meetings with Iranian officials until the killing of protesters stops. Iran's security forces have arrested more than 50,000 people suspected of participating in the protests, with more than 7,000 reportedly killed during the nationwide crackdown. (NYP/VFI News)

Potential U.S. Military Strikes on Iran Could Target Specific Individuals, Pursue Regime Change; U.S. military planning on Iran reached an advanced stage by Friday, February 20, with options including targeting specific individuals and even pursuing regime change in Tehran, if ordered by President Donald Trump. Two U.S. officials confirmed that these are among the options that have emerged in the planning phase, though they did not specify which individuals could be targeted. Trump said on Friday, February 20, that he is "considering" a limited military strike on Iran to pressure its leaders into a nuclear deal. Last week, when asked if he wanted regime change, the president responded that it "seems like that would be the best thing that could happen." He also indicated on Thursday, February 19, that Tehran has no more than "10, 15 days, pretty much maximum" to reach an agreement. A Middle Eastern source with knowledge of the negotiations said Tehran understands how close the risk of war feels and is unlikely to deliberately provoke Trump at this stage. However, the source said Iran cannot accept limitations on its short-range missile program, describing it as a firm red line set by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. There may be more flexibility on uranium enrichment parameters if sanctions relief is part of the equation. (FOX/VFI News)

Witkoff: Trump 'Curious' Why Iran Hasn't Capitulated; President Donald Trump's Middle East envoy, Steve Witkoff, told Fox News in an interview on Saturday, February 22, that Trump is "curious" as to why Iran has not yet agreed to a deal on its nuclear program. Witkoff said the president wonders why, under the amount of naval power the U.S. has deployed in the region, Iran has not come forward with a concrete proposal to disarm. Witkoff confirmed that Trump's red lines for Iran stipulate "zero enrichment" of uranium, adding that Iran has enriched uranium well beyond what is required for civilian purposes. The comments came as Trump has maintained a massive military presence in the Middle East, should

diplomatic talks with Tehran fail. On Friday, February 21, Trump urged Iran to negotiate a fair deal and cited a figure of 32,000 protesters killed in Iran, a number put forth by Iranian opposition groups and significantly higher than other estimates. Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi rejected reports of a U.S. demand for a permanent halt to enrichment, stating that Iran has not offered any suspension and the U.S. side has not formally asked for zero enrichment. (INN/VFI News)

Iran Retaliates After EU Blacklists IRGC; Iran's Foreign Ministry announced on Saturday, February 22, that it has designated the navies and air forces of all European Union member states as terrorist organizations. The move was described as a direct response to the EU's recent decision to label Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) a terrorist organization, which Tehran called "unlawful and unjustified." In a statement, the ministry said the EU's decision "is in contradiction with the fundamental principles and rules of the United Nations Charter and international law." Tehran added that it acted in accordance with a 2019 law under which any country that supports or complies with the U.S. decision to declare the IRGC a terrorist organization will face reciprocal action. Iran's move came three days after the Council of the EU formally added the IRGC to the bloc's terrorist list, following a political agreement reached by EU foreign ministers last month. The designation triggers restrictive measures, including the freezing of the IRGC's funds and financial assets within EU member states. France's decision to withdraw its longstanding opposition to the listing made the agreement possible. Tehran was outraged and summoned all EU ambassadors in the country. (INN/VFI News)

Hamas Tightens Grip in Gaza, Increasing Skepticism of Trump's Peace Plan; Hamas is cementing its hold over Gaza by placing loyalists in key government roles, collecting taxes, and paying salaries, an Israeli military assessment presented to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in late January revealed. The terror group's continuing influence over key Gaza power structures has fueled widespread skepticism about the prospects of President Donald Trump's peace plan, which requires Hamas to give up its weapons in exchange for an Israeli military withdrawal from the territory. The Israeli military warned that Hamas is "advancing steps on the ground meant to preserve its influence and grip in the Gaza Strip 'from the bottom up' by means of integrating its supporters in government offices, security apparatuses, and local authorities." Hamas has named five district governors all with links to its armed al-Qassam Brigades and replaced senior officials in Gaza's economy and interior ministries, which manage taxation and security. Hamas says it is ready to hand over administration of the enclave to a U.S.-backed committee of Palestinian technocrats headed by Ali Shaatt, but claims Israel has not yet allowed committee members to enter Gaza to assume their responsibilities. An Israeli government official dismissed any notion of a future role for Hamas as a "twisted fantasy," stating that Hamas "is finished as a governing authority in the Gaza Strip." The military's assessment concluded that without Hamas disarmament, the terror group will succeed in preserving its influence and control. (TOI/VFI News)

Arab States Fume Over Huckabee Remarks on Israel's Biblical Borders; Several Arab countries on Saturday, February 22, strongly condemned remarks by U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, calling them "absurd and provocative," unacceptable, and contrary to international law. Huckabee made the comments during an interview with journalist Tucker Carlson, released on Friday, February 21, in which he defended Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip and voiced support for the idea of divine providence granting Israel control of the region. Arguing that Israel has a biblical right to land stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates River, Huckabee said it would be "fine if they took it all." He stressed, however, that Israel is not seeking to take over the Middle East but does have a right to live in the land currently under Israeli sovereignty. Jordan's Foreign Ministry called the remarks a "violation of diplomatic norms" and "a blatant breach of international law." Egypt's Foreign Ministry condemned the statements as a "flagrant departure" from the principles of international law, expressing surprise that they contradict the vision put

forward by President Trump. Saudi Arabia also condemned in “the strongest terms” what it called Huckabee’s “reckless remarks,” warning that such extremist comments “threaten international peace and security.” Oman similarly condemned the remarks, describing them as an illegitimate acceptance of imposing control over Arab lands. (INN/VFI News)

Israel Ranks First Among Countries Targeted by Geopolitical Cyberattacks in 2025; Israel was the most targeted country in the world for geopolitically motivated cyberattacks in 2025, with 12.2 percent of all such attacks globally directed at the country, Israeli cybersecurity firm Radware reported on Thursday, February 19, in its 2026 Global Cyber Threat report. The United States followed at 9.4 percent and Ukraine at 8.9 percent, meaning nearly one in eight ideologically motivated attacks worldwide was aimed at Israel. The report found that Israel faced 1,881 claimed cyberattacks in 2025, mostly from pro-Iranian and anti-Israel hacktivist groups. Globally, Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks soared by 168 percent compared to 2024, while malicious activity targeting websites and digital services rose by more than 120 percent. Government services were the primary target, accounting for 38.8 percent of all claimed attacks. Cyber Defense Chief Yossi Karadi earlier warned that Israel needs to bolster its preparedness for what he described as a fast-approaching “cyber war.” The Shin Bet security agency and National Cyber Directorate said that in recent months, hundreds of Iranians cyberattacks targeting Israelis including senior government and defense officials, academics, and journalists were detected and foiled. The National Cyber Directorate saw a 55 percent increase in the number of cyberattacks year-on-year in 2025. (TOI/VFI News)

New Study Puts Hominins in Israel 1.9 Million Years Ago, Rewriting Earliest Human Migration; A groundbreaking new study published on Sunday, February 22, has redated the ‘Ubeidiya archaeological site in Israel’s Jordan Valley to 1.9 million years ago, making it contemporaneous with a site in Georgia long considered the earliest evidence of hominins outside Africa. The findings significantly shake up what scientists know about the earliest migrations out of the cradle of human life. Until now, scholars believed the population at Dmanisi, Georgia, represented an earlier group than those at ‘Ubeidiya, with different anatomical features and distinct stone tools. The new study suggests that at least two distinct groups migrated out of Africa at roughly the same time, one crafting the Oldowan stone-tool tradition found at Dmanisi and another producing the more advanced Acheulian tools discovered at ‘Ubeidiya. The Israel Antiquities Authority described the site as “a national treasure” and “the earliest prehistoric site discovered outside Africa,” stressing that it must remain accessible so visitors can experience the ancient landscapes of Israel and learn about the early humans who once lived there. The discovery reaffirms Israel’s extraordinary significance not only in the history of civilization but in the very story of humanity itself. (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](#).

()