Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 28, 2026 (Tishrei 16, 5787)



For the Yachad Report Newsletter For September 2026

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Israel; "Moral Cowards": Netanyahu Faces Down a UN Walkout as Abbas Speaks From a Screen

■ *UN's Albanese Echoes Haman, Rewriting the Holocaust: Claims Jews Sent to Gas Chambers Were "Muslims"*
■ *Jews and Christians Around the World Unite in Prayer for Neria Leiter*
■ *250 Young Christians Train to Stand With Israel and Jewish Students at Washington Summit*
■ *Police Arrest Suspect in Pepper-Spray Attack on Christian Child on Yom Kippur*
■ *Israel Freezes Aliyah for Two Jews Over Activism Protecting Palestinians*

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Please contact Jeffery @ Yachad Ministries

Phone 770-641-3000 ext. 6

E-mail yachad@mindspring.com



Standing with Israel!

Netanyahu's Office Blasts Macron's 'Grotesque' UN Claim That Hamas Has 'Never Been Very Active' in Judea and Samaria; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office on Tuesday, September 22, sharply criticized French President Emmanuel Macron over his claim at the United Nations that Hamas "has never been very active" in Judea and Samaria. "The grotesque absurdity of Emmanuel Macron's statement is staggering," the office said. "On Sunday [September 20], the eve of Yom Kippur, Netanel Shakron – a FRENCH CITIZEN and father of six – was murdered in his car by a Hamas terrorist in Judea and Samaria. With his final breath, he told his son to run." "Hamas terrorists carry out attacks against Jews almost every day. They have murdered countless Israeli civilians in Judea and Samaria. Ignorance is NO EXCUSE for erasing their blood," the statement added. Macron made the remarks while discussing Judea and Samaria during his UN General Assembly speech, referring to Israeli government policies and activity on the hilltops in the area. "Look, just look at what is happening in [Judea and Samaria]. Day after day, we are seeing violations," he said. "And in the name of what? Hamas has never been very active in Judea and Samaria. What we need is respect for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, their legitimate right to exist." Minister Bezalel Smotrich also accused Macron of misrepresenting Hamas's role in the area, citing Shakron's killing. "President Macron is lying. On Sunday, a despicable terrorist from the Hamas terrorist organization murdered Netanel Shakron, may God avenge his blood, who was bathing with his son in a spring ahead of Yom Kippur," Smotrich said. "This is just one attack out of hundreds of attacks led by the Hamas terrorist organization. The terrorist organization fuels Arab terrorism in Judea and Samaria and is a significant part of it and its activities." Smotrich said Israel is responding by strengthening the communities in the area. *(INN/VFI News)*

IDF and Shin Bet Eliminate Hamas Finance Chief Muhammad Abu Alwan in Khan Yunis Strike; The IDF and the Shin Bet killed Hamas Finance Department chief Muhammad Abu Alwan in a joint operation in the Khan Yunis area of Gaza, Defense Minister Israel Katz announced on Wednesday, September 23. Katz praised the two agencies "for the precise operation and for the aggressive activity to thwart our enemies." Israel, he said, will "continue to pursue Hamas commanders and operatives, to strike at its sources of funding, and to destroy its terrorist infrastructure." "We will not allow Hamas to rebuild its strength, and we will not stop until there is no Hamas in Gaza," Katz added. Israeli media reported that Abu Alwan managed Hamas's external funds in the years leading up to the October 7 massacre, including a Qatari grant. During the war, he switched to harnessing internal funds for Hamas's operations, primarily from humanitarian aid. Hamas terrorists also stole merchandise from Gazan store owners to further fund terror activities, Israeli media reported. Katz said the campaign against Hamas's commanders, its funding, and its terror infrastructure will continue until the terror group no longer exists in Gaza. *(JPost/VFI News)*

Gunman Opens Fire Outside Ontario Synagogue as Yom Kippur Begins; Police Return Fire and No One Inside is Hurt; A 29-year-old man opened fire on a police officer stationed outside an Ontario synagogue at the start of Yom Kippur on Sunday evening, September 20, triggering a shootout

involving as many as 30 shots, the province's police watchdog said on Monday, September 21. The gunfire left the assailant with life-threatening injuries and seriously wounded a 13-year veteran of the Belleville Police Service, who was recovering in intensive care. At a press conference that day, Belleville's deputy police chief Sheri Meeks identified the shooter as Sean Ward, 29, from the neighboring city of Quinte West, and the injured officer as Constable Jeff Smith. The province's Special Investigations Unit said preliminary evidence showed the man arrived in a truck around 7 p.m. and fired at an officer outside the Sons of Jacob Synagogue in Belleville, about 110 miles east of Toronto. The officer returned fire before a second officer arrived and also fired. The synagogue's president, Norman Weddum, told Canadian media that he was ushering people into the sanctuary to begin services when he heard the shots ring out, and that the officer had been stationed outside the building in an unmarked car. SIU spokesperson Kristy Denette estimated that 20 to 30 shots were fired, with dozens of bullet holes found along the street. Meeks characterized the shooting as a hate crime aimed at the Jewish community. “We recognize the concern and uncertainty many may be feeling, particularly given that this occurred near the Sons of Jacob synagogue during one of the holiest days in the Jewish faith. Let me be very clear: Antisemitism, hate and violence have no place in our community,” she said. “Every person deserves to feel safe when attending a place of worship, gathering with loved ones or participating in community life.” There are increased patrols and a heightened police presence throughout the city, including at houses of worship, Meeks added. *(TOI/VFI News)*

Pew Poll: Majorities of Israelis and Palestinians Say Israel and a Palestinian State Cannot Coexist Peacefully; A large majority of Palestinians in Judea and Samaria and eastern Jerusalem, and a majority of Israelis, do not believe Israel and an independent Palestinian state can coexist peacefully, a new Pew Research Center survey has found. Just 17% of Israelis said a path to peaceful coexistence could be found, compared with 56% who said it could not. Among Palestinians surveyed in Judea and Samaria and eastern Jerusalem, 21% said coexistence was possible, while 68% said it was not. The Israeli result is a low point in more than a decade of Pew polling on the question. The share of Israelis saying coexistence was possible had already fallen to its lowest level in 2025 and remained roughly unchanged in 2026, and 2026 was the first time more than half of Israeli respondents explicitly said it was impossible. Among Jewish Israelis, 16% said a two-state solution was possible while 64% said it was not; among Arab Israelis, 46% either said they did not know or declined to answer, while 23% said peaceful coexistence was possible and 26% said it was not. Pew surveyed 1,001 people in Israel and 1,038 Palestinians in Judea and Samaria and eastern Jerusalem. Israeli interviews were conducted from April 5 to May 6, 2026, and Palestinian interviews from March 30 to April 28, 2026, in Hebrew and Arabic. The fieldwork coincided with the Iran war, beginning while fighting was still underway and continuing after an initial ceasefire was declared on April 7, 2026; Gaza was not included because Pew said it was unable to conduct fieldwork there. *(TOI/VFI News)*

UEFA Rejects Ireland's Request to Keep Israel Out of Future Draws; UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) has rejected a request from the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) to prevent Ireland and Israel from being drawn against each other in future competitions, FAI chief executive David Courell said on Friday, September 18. Courell said the request followed Ireland's pairing with Israel in the UEFA Nations League. UEFA's policy is to consider requests to separate national teams individually, particularly when there are structural security concerns, and the organization already keeps some teams apart for political or security reasons. UEFA rejected the Irish request, Courell said, because the two countries have never been in “direct conflict.” The decision comes as the teams prepare to meet twice in the Nations League: Israel will host Ireland at Nagyerdei Stadion in Debrecen, Hungary, on Sunday, September 27, while Ireland's designated home fixture will take place behind closed doors at TSC Arena in Bačka Topola, Serbia, on Sunday, October 4. The FAI moved the latter match from Dublin's Aviva Stadium, citing “operational challenges.” The FAI has also decided to scale back some of the customary

activities surrounding the matches. Courell said the association will not host Israel Football Association officials at the traditional pre-match dinner for the October fixture and has requested that the same arrangement apply in Hungary. The FAI is also seeking UEFA approval to put "Respect" messages on stadium LED boards, while sponsor branding is expected to be reduced. *(INN/VFI News)*

Drilling Begins at Turkey's Boat-Shaped Durupinar Formation, Long Linked to Noah's Ark; Drilling has begun at a mysterious boat-shaped formation in eastern Turkey that researchers have long debated as a possible resting place of Noah's Ark, with investigators now seeking physical evidence after scans appeared to reveal "corridors and chambers" hidden underground. The Noah's Ark Scans team has started collecting core samples from the Durupinar formation, about 29 kilometers south of Mount Ararat, as part of a permitted scientific investigation involving Turkish researchers. The formation's unusual shape has fueled speculation for decades, but its identification as the biblical vessel remains unproven. The Durupinar formation was identified in aerial photographs in 1959 by Turkish Army Captain İlhan Durupinar. Measuring roughly 157 meters, or 515 feet long, its boat-like outline has repeatedly attracted researchers hoping to connect it to the vessel described in the Book of Genesis. The 2026 project is being directed in Turkey by Professor Cenker Atila of Sivas Cumhuriyet University's Department of Archaeology, and Noah's Ark Scans says the research has received authorization from the relevant Turkish government agencies. Researchers are taking core samples from inside and outside the formation, with laboratory analysis expected to examine their composition, organic content and geological layers. Interest in the latest investigation has been fueled by previous ground-penetrating radar surveys, which the team says detected unusual features beneath the surface, including linear features, right-angle intersections and spaces resembling corridors and chambers; its fundraising campaign previously described one apparent hallway as stretching more than 250 feet. Those interpretations have not established that the features are man-made, and physical sampling and further investigation will be needed to determine what produced the radar anomalies. *(IBT/VFI News)*

Israeli Study: $60 Blood Test Detects Lung Cancer with Nearly 93% Accuracy; A clinical study has found that a new test designed to detect lung cancer had an accuracy rate of nearly 93% in patients, potentially replacing the need for costly and complex genetic sequencing for diagnosis with a $60 blood test. The study, led by Dr. Abd Agbaria, head of oncology at the Bnai Zion Medical Center, in collaboration with researchers at Tel Aviv University, included 103 participants and was published in npj Precision Oncology. The test uses a dedicated chip and fluorescence analysis to examine fragments of cell-free DNA in the blood for distinct methylation patterns. Methylation, a process in which a cluster of hydrogen and carbon atoms is added to DNA, often inhibiting gene expression, can inhibit sections vital for tumor prevention. Identifying methylation patterns enables researchers and healthcare professionals to identify cancerous cells and determine the type of cancer. In the study, the blood test demonstrated a sensitivity of 93.1% and a specificity of 90.3% among patients with stage 2 to stage 4 cancer, and it also distinguished between adenocarcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. "Lung cancer is a disease in which the timing of diagnosis is enormously important. The earlier we are able to detect the disease, the greater the possibilities for treatment and cure," Agbaria said. "Our goal is to develop a tool that is simple, accessible, and readily available, which can help us detect the disease at a stage when meaningful intervention is still possible." Agbaria cautioned that broader testing will be required before the test can be incorporated into regular use; a larger trial is ongoing at several medical centers in Israel and Europe. The study is the result of a collaboration between researchers from Tel Aviv University, JaxBio Technologies, Bnai Zion Medical Center, and Sheba Medical Center. *(JPost/VFI News)*

Massive Second Temple-Era Mikveh Complex Where Pilgrims Purified Themselves Uncovered at the Foot of the Temple Mount; A massive complex of several mikva'ot, believed to have been used by Jewish pilgrims, has been uncovered at the foot of the Temple Mount on the outskirts of Jerusalem's

Old City. The discovery was made during five seasons of excavations directed by Prof. Uzi Leibner and Prof. Orit Peleg-Barkat of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Institute of Archaeology. “The Hebrew University has been excavating in the Ophel since 1968,” the two archaeologists said. “It started with Benjamin Mazar, who was the president of the Hebrew University, right after the Six-Day War. Later, his granddaughter, Eilat Mazar, also excavated here… After she passed away, we stepped in.” The complex, which stretches across about 280 square meters, was found at the Ophel archaeological site and includes a large central pool and several mikva’ot. It is located near the now-sealed “Triple Gate,” which served as one of the main entryways to the Temple Mount in antiquity; during the Second Temple period, the gateway led to an underground staircase that climbed to the middle of the Temple Mount's plaza. Both its location and size suggest the complex played a significant role in the journey of ancient Jews making pilgrimage to the Temple, allowing them to undergo ritual purification at one of the site's mikva’ot before making their way up to the Temple Mount. “Our excavation is right at the foot of the staircase climbing up to the Triple Gate. So it's a major location, about 50 meters from the gate itself,” Leibner said. At the center of the complex, archaeologists unearthed a large plastered pool with steps descending into it from all four sides, measuring approximately 12 by 9.5 meters and dating to the early first century CE. Northwest of the central pool they exposed a finely dressed stone structure containing four rooms, three of them identified as mikva’ot dating to the beginning of the first century CE. *(JPost/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

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