

ISRAEL INTERCESSORY PRAYER ITEMS

November 27-December 4, 2020

1. ISRAEL TERROR ATTACKS UPDATES:

Last Friday (Nov 20), Palestinians placed explosives by the Qalandiya Crossing north of Jerusalem and by Rachel's Tomb south of the capital. Two Palestinians who placed explosives next to the crossing were arrested, as was the Palestinian who placed the explosive near Rachel's Tomb

On Sunday (Nov 22), the IDF thwarted an attempt to attack troops with bombs planted outside the village of al-Mughayyir near Ramallah in Judea-Samaria. The explosives were covered with dirt and rigged to blow if a soldier stepped on them.

On Monday (Nov 23), Border Police arrested two Arab teenagers armed with a knife near the bus station opposite the Tomb of the Patriarch in Hebron. The teenagers were heading towards an Israeli waiting at the station, when the Border Policemen noticed them approaching and became suspicious. The policemen ordered them to halt and the teenager armed with the knife threw it to the ground and surrendered.

On Wednesday (Nov 25), Israel Border Guard Police foiled an attempted terrorist attack at the az-Za'ayem checkpoint crossing east of Jerusalem, near the Jewish city of Maale Adumim. A Jerusalem Arab resident drove towards the checkpoint and upon request during the routine security check presented papers that turned out to be false; they belonged to someone else. As the security check continued, the suspect suddenly put the car into gear and started driving, hitting a police officer at the scene and wounding him slightly. Police officers opened fire at the terrorist. The terrorist was taken to Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem with gunshot wounds. He arrived in very serious condition and died of his injuries a few hours later after efforts to resuscitate him failed.

Thank You, Father, for watching over Israel – all the time (Psa. 121:4). We do bless You for all the attacks that have been thwarted either before or as they occur (Jer. 31:10). Bring all terrorists plots to light and then bring them to nothing (Psa. 64:2). Protect Your people, we pray. May each Israeli turn to You for their protection and covering. Use the tension and fear to draw each Israeli to Yourself, we pray. Lord, keep security forces alert in Jerusalem's Old City, at checkpoints, and elsewhere (Psalms 121:4). Remove all distractions from Israeli security forces. (Psalms 48:12-13) We trust in You to constantly watch over Israel (Psalms 37:40). Especially, protect the residents of Judea-Samaria who face so much violence on a daily basis.

“Moreover, I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore...” (2 Samuel 7:10)

2. POST ISRAEL ELECTION UPDATES:

Sometimes it's important to state the obvious: The 35th Government of the State of Israel was a halting, limping mess. It couldn't pass a state budget, struggled to craft coherent coronavirus restrictions, often failed to enforce those it managed to approve, and couldn't fill vital posts in the public service — from top cop to key public health officials. It couldn't even coordinate among its bickering partners basic steps to streamline the new regional normalization moves as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted on keeping his Blue and White partners far from any limelight or credit. It was that compartmentalization that left the Defense Ministry scrambling to sign a new agreement with the Pentagon ensuring Israel's “qualitative military edge” after the surprise discovery that the UAE peace deal included, unofficially, a fleet of F-35s for Abu Dhabi.

Settlement Affairs Minister Tzachi Hanegbi announced Wednesday (Nov 25) evening at the Knesset plenum that he will promote a move to regulate 'outposts' in Judea and Samaria in agreement with PM Netanyahu and Minister Michael Biton. "We have jointly agreed to formulate a resolution to the government to promote all legal moves that will lead to the regulation of young settlements. I am convinced that the government will take the issue very seriously and examine it with in-depth consideration," Hanegbi said. "I thank the Knesset members who raised the issue on the agenda. The mobilization of many forces to finally regulate the young settlement is to be welcomed. After 20 years of these pioneers working for us, it is time for us to work for them," he added.

Abba, You have commanded us to pray for our leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-2) and we do ask that You would move PM Netanyahu's heart in the direction of Your heart for Israel – both land and people (Prov. 21:1). Continue to bless and use him as Israel's leader until it is Your time for him to retire (Eccl. 3:1). Prepare the person who will succeed him and please reveal that person to us for prayer (Amos 3:7). Whoever this is, work deeply in them to prepare them to lead Your nation (Jer. 30:21). It seems that new elections are always right around the corner for this non-unified unity government. Overrule and bring in new elections in Your perfect timing (Psa. 103:19). Lord, the animosity between Netanyahu and Bennett hurts all Israel. After new elections these right-wing party leaders will need to work together. Intervene and bring peace now (Prov. 18:19). Remove from their circles anyone who is negatively interfering with their relationship (Prov. 10:18). Do not allow the media to blow this animosity up any greater than it actually is. Grace the next generation of Israel's leaders with a desire to give You all the glory (Psa. 115:1-3).

"He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him." (Psalm 91:15)

3. ISRAEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES:

The Israel Health Ministry reported Thursday (Nov 26) that 1,069 people tested positive for Covid-19 on Wednesday, bringing the number of active patients to 9,422. Cities most affected include Jerusalem, Nazareth, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Umm al-Fahm, Rahat, and Bnei Brak. 510 patients are being treated in hospitals, with 282 in serious condition, of whom 122 are ventilated. The Health Ministry noted that 2% of the tests were positive, double the infection rate of 1%, which, according to one of the many decisions of the Corona Cabinet should be a reason to return to a countrywide lockdown.

Nazareth, Israel's largest Arab city, has been on lockdown since Saturday as the number of Covid-19 cases there continues to climb. Official Israeli data suggests that 46.7% of patients in recent weeks had come from Arab communities, which comprise 21% of Israel's population. Israeli coronavirus chief Nahman Ash said last Saturday that "weddings and returning from abroad" were the two main factors contributing to the spread of the pandemic.

Israel is in the final stages of talks with British pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca to purchase "millions" of doses of its vaccine, which is currently under trial. According to the agreement, AstraZeneca will provide Israel with approximately ten million doses of its coronavirus vaccine (AZD1222) for five million people. This is the third deal signed by Israel to receive vaccinations following similar deals with Moderna and Pfizer. Israel is also in talks with Russia to receive its "Sputnik V" vaccine. (**Note:** No one knows the side effects of these vaccines in the future. They are novel vaccines using new delivery passages/systems for injection into the human genome.)

Israel's Ministries of Economy and Finance published overnight Friday the lottery results that determine the identity of the nine malls that will open Friday morning as part of the "malls pilot." A raffle was held during the night in which nine more malls were picked to be opened, in addition to the six that had already been announced earlier. Malls with at least 20 stores could register for the raffle. The nine new picks were divided so that three malls were selected in the

central area, three in the north and three in Jerusalem and the south. The “malls pilot” is expected to continue until December 6, at which point, depending on whether the morbidity rate doesn’t climb even higher (it will), the Corona Cabinet will decide to continue the program and invite more malls to join the fun, or impose an even more severe lockdown than before

The coronavirus infection rate is rising again in the Jewish State, Health Ministry Director-General Professor Chezy Levy confirmed Wednesday (Nov 25). Despite his remarks earlier in the day saying there would be no talk of reinstating restrictions, late Wednesday night restrictions were indeed imposed on a number of neighbourhoods within Arab communities in southern and central Israel. Israeli children in all other areas are returning to their schools in accordance with the plan set forth by the Coronavirus Cabinet in its previous meetings.

Thank You that in spite of all the confusion that surrounds this virus You have led and protected Israel from a huge loss of life (Psa. 77:19-20). Protect Israel from all plans of man – and impart Your plans to those making decisions (Jer. 17:5-8). Forbid the vaccine committee from becoming political in any way (Prov. 26:17). Wake up Israeli leaders to see the dangers of these vaccines which have been fast-tracked with little or no long-range testing for adverse affects. Do not allow the government to make taking the vaccine mandatory (Dan. 3:16-18). Guard over the complete opening of schools next week (Eccl. 3:1). Guide the Body of Messiah to be an example of loving grace as Israel navigates through this time of confusion. Restore to Your nation all that the locusts have eaten (Joel 2:21-27).

“But now thus says YHWH who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned...For I am YHWH your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior’...” (Isaiah 43:1-3)

4. POST UAE/BAHRAIN/SUDAN AGREEMENTS UPDATES:

PM Netanyahu made a secret trip to Saudi Arabia last Sunday (Nov 22), accompanied by Mossad head Yossi Cohen. Netanyahu spent four hours in the Saudi coastal city of Neom, where he met with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Israeli Education Minister Yoav Gallant told media that Netanyahu's meeting in Saudi Arabia on Sunday was an "amazing achievement." "The very fact the meeting happened, and was outed publicly, even if half-officially right now, is a matter of great importance."

PM Netanyahu announced Tuesday (Nov 24) that he is planning to make his first official visit to Bahrain in the near future. Like Sudan and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain has recently signed a USA-brokered normalization agreement with Israel. In a statement Tuesday Mr. Netanyahu said he had spoken the day before with Bahraini Prime Minister Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. “This was our second conversation; it was very friendly,” Mr. Netanyahu said. This meeting will likely take place in Bahrain next week. It is also expected that Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi will travel to Bahrain next week in order to open Israel’s first embassy there.

History in Israel’s relations with Bahrain was recorded Wednesday (Nov 25) when the Jewish state’s first official business delegation landed in Manama, the capital of Bahrain, and met with Bahrain’s Minister of Industry and Commerce Ziad Al Zayani and with senior banking and business officials. Senior officials from the two countries attended the meeting, the first of its kind since the signing of the Abraham Accords between Bahrain and Israel in Washington on September 15.

The Israeli delegation is led by the President of the Manufacturers’ Association, the Chairman of the Export Institute, Bank Hapoalim CEO Dov Kotler, and other senior officials. The purpose of the visit is to promote business relations between the countries, with an emphasis on cooperation between the banks, so that businesspeople from both

countries can start and trade. Bahrain is a regional finance center and has announced its desire to develop and promote the fintech sector.

PM Netanyahu on Thursday (Nov 26) welcomed to Ben-Gurion International Airport the first commercial flight from Dubai (UAE) to Tel Aviv. Speaking during the welcoming ceremony at the airport, Netanyahu said the flight “now opens the way for dozens of flights a week to Dubai, to the UAE, to Bahrain and to the east.” In combination with a visa exemption on travel between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, “there is a great opening here for trade, the economy and tourism that, in effect, makes for a truly new and different Middle East, a meeting between peoples as well as meeting between leaders,” he added.

Lord, we ask that the spirit of genuine cooperation between these nations to be guarded (Gen. 26:26-31). Show Israel where it can compromise in negotiations and when it needs to just say no (Prov. 16:1)! Protect Israel from being deceived in anyway during these ongoing negotiations (Num. 23:23). Remind all Israelis involved that security must be their primary concern (Rom. 13:1-4). Prevent anything from being agreed upon that would set a bad precedent for any future negotiations with other Arab nations. Block all curses coming against this treaty from Iran, Turkey and the Palestinians (Prov. 26:2). Use the anti-UAE rage of the Palestinians to show UAE leaders – and all other Arabs – the true nature of the corrupt Palestinian leadership. May all Christians in the UAE perceive Israel's restoration to be connected with Your glory (Psa. 115:1-3).

“It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.” (Psalm 118:8-9)

5. GOLAN HEIGHTS/SYRIA/LEBANON/IRAQ/TURKEY UPDATES:

Golan Heights

USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said last Thursday (Nov 19) during his visit to Israel: "Today I'll get a chance to visit the Golan Heights. The simple recognition of this as part of Israel too was a decision President Trump made that is historically important and simply a recognition of the reality. For a long time, the State Department took the wrong view of [Israeli] settlements. It took a view that didn't recognize the history of this special place. And instead, now, today the United States Department of State stands strongly for the recognition that settlements can be done in a way that are lawful and appropriate and proper." He added, "35 years ago as a young [West Point] cadet, I studied about this very place - this amazing and important piece of real estate. You can't stand here and stare out at what's across the border and deny [that] this is a part of Israel and a central part of Israel....Imagine with Assad in control of this place, the risk, the harm to the West and to Israel and to the people of Israel." (Note: Warren Christopher, who served as secretary of state during the first term of the Clinton administration, visited the Golan Heights in 1993. The then-Secretary of State James Baker toured the Golan by air.)

Syria

A State Department spokesman told Asharq Al-Awsat that Washington continues to support Israel's right to defend itself amid the threat Iran poses to it from Syria. He revealed that bilateral cooperation is underway to detect threats in border regions with Syria. Echoing repeated demands by USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, the official stressed the need for the Iranian regime to withdraw its Revolutionary Guard Corps forces, Hezbollah fighters and other Tehran-backed groups from Syria in order for peace and stability to be restored. The spokesman said that the USA was well aware that the Assad regime still possesses chemical weapons and was ready to use them. The regime has used such weapons against its own people over 50 times since 2011, he revealed.

Iran on Sunday (Nov 22) vowed to defeat any Israeli attempt to harm its role in Syria, saying the era of "hit and run" attacks by Israel there was over, days after Israel carried out airstrikes on the Syrian army and Iranian paramilitary targets in the country. Israel, which views Iran as its biggest security threat, has repeatedly attacked Iranian targets and those of allied militia in Syria, where Iran has backed President Bashar al-Assad and his forces against rebels and militants since 2012.

On Wednesday (Nov 25), Israel attacked eight Syrian targets, including an Iranian headquarters at Damascus international airport and a "secret military site" that served as a "hosting facility for senior Iranian delegations when they come to Syria to operate." It was the second alleged Israeli attack in the past week in Syria, across which Jerusalem accuses Iran of establishing permanent military infrastructure. That operation was, in turn, precipitated by the IDF's discovery of bombs planted along the frontier reportedly at the behest of the Iranian army's Quds Force. In a rare move, the IDF publicly claimed responsibility.)

Lebanon

Israel's Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz invited Lebanese President Michel Aoun to talks in Europe to advance the currently stalled sea border negotiations. Hezbollah warned Aoun that any responsiveness to the Israeli invitation would undermine relations between Hezbollah and the Lebanese president, who is a political ally of Hezbollah.

After Israel and Lebanon opened negotiations on their disputed maritime border to clear the way for offshore oil and gas exploration, "Lebanon has changed its stance on its maritime border with Israel seven times," Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz said last Thursday (Nov 19). Lebanon is now demanding an additional 1,430 square km. of sea further south, which includes part of Israel's Karish gas field, said Lebanese energy expert Laury Haytayan.

Turkey

Maj.-Gen. Hatem Bashat, a member of the Egyptian parliamentary Committee for African Affairs, said last week that Egypt is well aware of the "malicious" Turkish moves in Somalia to control the Red Sea. On November 14, units of Egypt's elite Saiqa Force and air force arrived at Marwa air base in Sudan to participate in joint Egyptian-Sudanese combat exercises for the first time ever. In January Egypt inaugurated the major Berenice naval and air base near its southern border, the largest in the Red Sea, to counter Turkish threats and ambitions in the region. **(Note:** On September 30, 2017, Turkey inaugurated a military base south of Mogadishu, and announced on January 20 this year the start of oil exploration in Somali waters.)

A new study by KONDA, a leading Turkish pollster, revealed that 38% of Turks feel like "strangers in their own country." 74% of Turkish Kurds feel they do not belong in Turkey, as do 51% of "modern Turks." SODEV, another pollster, found that 60.5% of youths who support Erdogan said they would prefer to live in Christian Switzerland. It also found that 70% think a talented young person would never be able to get ahead professionally in Turkey without political connections or nepotism. In 2019, 330,289 people left Turkey to live abroad.

Turkish President Erdogan seems determined to reinvent the secular Muslim country he inherited as draconian, Islamist, and with vaunting regional ambitions. For Western powers, the urgent question is how to deal with the mutation of a NATO ally into a "neo-Ottoman" threat. A hundred years ago, the Turkish Republic was founded on secularism. Ataturk banned religion from the public realm, prohibited the Arabic call to prayer, and encouraged men and women to mix. But for years, Erdogan has done all he can to reverse the Turkish liberal consensus. Erdogan now controls 5,500 miles of northern Syria. In Libya, Turkish muscle enabled the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord to crush the rebel Khalifa Haftar. Turkey controls Europe's gas supply and migrant flows. Moreover, Turkish soft power - its films, television and fiction - have long been winning hearts and minds across the Muslim world.

Remind Israel's leaders that when it comes to protecting their nation, it does not matter what the USA, or the UN, or the EU or any other group thinks. It is their responsibility alone (Rom. 13:3-4). Abba, govern the actions of President Trump in so that he is able to do only that which is Your will (Prov. 21:1). Keep Israel's intelligence information of its numerous enemies, especially Hezbollah, up-to-date (2 Kin. 6:8-9). Expose all disinformation, deceit and lying concerning intelligence, for the IDF to see (Deut. 33:29). Hide Israel's spies and collaborators; bring accurate actionable intelligence to them (Psa. 140:7). Thank You that Israel's recent attacks in Syria have been successful and effective (Psa. 144:1). Do not allow Israel to be threatened by Lebanon's over-the-top demands in setting a maritime border between them. Remind Israel that Lebanon needs this much more than Israel does (1 Kin. 5:6-11). Watch over and advance Israel's cyberwarfare capabilities (Job 22:13; 37:15; Isa. 19:1). We praise You for the "unmanned" aerial vehicles, patrol cars and boats Israel has developed. We pray that the human operators behind these "unmanned" weapons systems would be sharp, alert and have a will to act as and when needed (1 Chr. 12:8; Prov. 28:1b).

"For the nation and kingdom that will not serve you [Israel] shall perish; yes, those nations shall be utterly wasted." (Isaiah 60:12)

6. GAZA UPDATES:

A factory in the industrial area of the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon was damaged Saturday night (Nov 21) when it was hit by shrapnel from an exploding rocket. The rocket was launched from northern Gaza shortly after 9:30 pm, triggering the Red Alert rocket warning siren, which sent residents in the southern coastal city of Ashkelon racing for cover. Last year the population of Ashkelon was 144,073, making it the third largest city in Israel's southern district, and providing Gaza terrorists with tens of thousands of live targets. (Note: With just a few seconds in which to find a bomb shelter, Ashkelonians waste no time asking questions. They grab their kids and run...even if it means waking their babies and hauling them out of a sound sleep from their beds.) IDF retaliated; its aircraft struck two weapon production facilities and an underground Palestinian training camp for maritime forces.

The Israel Defense Forces launched a surprise exercise simulating a mock war scenario in and around the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. The Israeli army kicked off the four-day exercise last Sunday (Nov 22) morning, just hours after the IDF struck numerous Hamas targets in Gaza in response to a rocket attack from the coastal territory. Despite the timing, there was no connection between the incidents, the IDF said, with the exercise having been planned weeks in advance as part of a series of snap training drills organized over the last two years – since the appointment of Aviv Kochavi as Chief of Staff. The war simulation is taking place during a period of escalating tensions.

Over last weekend, 1,600 new coronavirus patients were diagnosed in Gaza. This is a higher daily number than in Israel, which has a population five times larger. The percentage of positive tests in Gaza stood at 30%.

Help Israel to turn the tables on Hamas so that they no longer control the outcome (Est. 9:1, 22). Stir up the common Palestinians to rebel against the PA and Hamas and then set up leaders who would be willing to live in peace with Israel (Psa. 11:5; 37:17; Prov. 10:24). Continue to give Israel success in developing and using defensive weaponry (Psa. 118:27a). Protect Your people in the Negev, Lord. May the new initiatives to bless Sderot and Ashdod and Ashkelon be applied with wisdom and great effect.

"Behold, all those who were incensed against you shall be ashamed and confounded; they shall be as nothing. And those who fight with you shall perish. You shall seek them, and shall not find them; men warring against you shall be as nothing, and as ceasing." (Isaiah 41:11-12)

7. PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY UPDATES:

As of Tuesday (Nov 24) afternoon, there were 7,843 active coronavirus infections among Palestinians in Judea-Samaria and 6,499 in Gaza. These high numbers continue among Palestinians. Palestinian Authority PM Shtayyeh announced that tighter restrictions would soon be imposed throughout Judea-Samaria to “break the spread of the virus.” On Friday and Saturday, PA-controlled areas are expected to re-enter total lockdown for the first time since July; this, ahead of the implementation of a 14-day nightly curfew.

Belgium is providing financial and political support and sponsorship to illegal Palestinian construction projects in Area C of Judea-Samaria and is demanding compensation after Israel dismantled these illegally constructed buildings. The Oslo Accords provide that Area C is under the sole administration and control of Israel. Belgium is openly supporting endeavors by the Palestinian leadership and hostile organizations aimed at undermining and obstructing Israel's legal and security control in Area C.

Thank You that Trump and Pompeo stand with Israel's right to all of the land (Gen. 13:15; 17:8). In Your timing – may it be soon, Lord – move on Israel to be bold and extend its sovereignty over Judea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley (Obad. 1:17-20; Amos 9:14-15). Let the current government legalize all Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria now (Jer. 31:3-5). Give them courage before the face of man and grant them the fear of God as well (Prov. 29:25). Grant security on the roads and settlements in all these areas (Psa. 121:4). May the population of the Israeli communities in Judea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley increase dramatically in the very near future (Ezek. 36:8-12). Do not allow the Palestinian issue to become the central issue for Middle East peace again. Prepare Israel's security forces for the chaotic time after PA President Abbas is removed (Psa. 70:2).

“Teach me Your way, O LORD, and lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies. Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence.” (Psalm 27:11-12)

8. THE LIGHT SHINES INTO THE DARKNESS *(This weekly commentary documents incidents where God shines his light into the darkness and exposes pending attacks, injustices and terror incidents. It also documents situations where the goodness of God breaks through into evil circumstances)*

Jonathan Pollard, 66, a former USA Navy analyst who was jailed for 30 years for passing thousands of confidential documents to an Israeli official until his arrest in 1985, has completed an additional 5-year restrictive parole period and is now free. According to CIA documents released in 2012, intelligence provided by Pollard was used to plan an October 1985 Israeli raid on the Tunis headquarters of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. After his arrest, Pollard pleaded guilty in a deal with prosecutors who agreed to seek a years-long sentence. But the judge sentenced him to life in prison. Pollard ultimately served the longest stretch in prison for an American who illegally gave material to an allied government. Israeli leaders welcomed the USA decision to end parole restrictions on Jonathan Pollard. Pollard has sought to move to Israel, which granted him citizenship while in prison and had long pushed for his release. "Now we will be able to welcome him and his family home," tweeted Israeli President Ruvi Rivlin. (Note: For many years PM Netanyahu has been committed to, and consistently worked towards, securing Pollard's release. Netanyahu visited Esther Pollard repeatedly throughout the years of her husband's incarceration and subsequent probation.)

The United Nations continues to single out Israel with attacks...more than any other country in the world. This year's parade of hate towards Israel includes 17 different motions condemning the Jewish state while there are seven aimed at the rest of the world. Since 2015, there have been 96 resolutions at the UN condemning Israel compared to seven for Syria, five for North Korea, four for Iran and three for Myanmar. While Syria, North Korea, Iran and Myanmar are oppressive human rights abusers, the UN sees Israel as the real problem.

Is Canada still a friend of Israel? The answer you get depends on who you ask and where they are coming from, but what cannot be denied is that there is a change in Canada's stance towards Israel since the Trudeau Liberals took power. That was not only highlighted by a vote that Canada was on the wrong side of at the United Nations last week but also a series of funding arrangements with questionable groups that have been growing over the past five years. Most worrisome is where the Trudeau government has been sending Canada's aid money in the region. **They have re-engaged with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), despite well-documented problems, while also sending money to groups like MA'AN Development Centre.** UNRWA lost its funding from Canada due to well-documented ties to the Hamas terrorist group during the Harper years. Since coming to office, the Trudeau Liberals have sent more than \$110 million Canadian tax dollars to the group. Last year, when an internal UN report documented what Al Jazeera described as "abuse of authority for personal gain, to suppress legitimate dissent and to otherwise achieve their personal objectives," the Trudeau government expressed concern. Switzerland and the Netherlands suspended payments to UNRWA. But UNRWA isn't the only problematic group. The MA'AN Development Centre has been linked to another terrorist organization, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The organization, which has received more than \$2.8 million from Canada under the Trudeau government, has hired members of the PFLP, including Ahmed Abdullah Al Adine, a self-professed commander in the terrorist group who was on the payroll of MA'AN while they were getting Canadian funding. These are certainly troubling positions by the Canadian government.

A November 19th article in 'Deutsche Welle' erroneously stated that under UN Resolution 194, Palestinian refugees are guaranteed a "right to return." CAMERA's Israel office prompted a correction after noting that a General Assembly resolution does not have the authority to "guarantee" anything. Its language - "should be permitted" - denotes a suggestion, not a guarantee. Moreover, the resolution conditions the return of refugees on their willingness to "live at peace with their neighbours." In addition, the main part of the resolution called for the establishment of a Conciliation Commission, which the Arab states and leadership rejected.

Eighty-seven Arab residents in eastern Jerusalem are expected to be evicted from their homes following three court decisions in favour of 'Ateret Cohanim', an Israeli association dedicated to the creation of a Jewish majority in the Old City and the neighbourhoods of eastern Jerusalem. All three cases have to do with claims by the association for the eviction of Arab squatters on the grounds of restitution of Jewish property that was stolen by the Jordanian occupier in the 1948 war. On Monday (Nov 23), a panel of judges of the Jerusalem District Court rejected the appeal of the Duwik family from Silwan and ordered the evacuation of the building in favour of the Ateret Cohanim association, within two weeks. The family intends to appeal to the Supreme Court. The building where the family has lived since 1963 is home to 30 family members, including 12 children under the age of 18. Ateret Cohanim also filed a financial claim against the Duwik family, in the amount of \$180,000. (**Note:** The big difference in property disputes between Jews and Arabs in Judea and Samaria versus eastern Jerusalem is that eastern Jerusalem is under Israeli sovereignty, which means that the Arab claimants can't just go to Ramallah and get a note which the Israeli High Court of Justice rubberstamps. Under Israeli sovereignty, they have to prove those documents are real.)

PM Netanyahu convened on Sunday the council heads from the area adjacent to the Gaza Strip to update them on details of the over \$300 million plan to "strengthen civilian resilience" in the city of Sderot and the communities in the area. Finance Minister Yisrael Katz and Interior Minister Aryeh Deri attended the online conference. The plan includes tax benefits and property tax discounts, growth engines such as the development of the agritech sector, boosts to social services, and investments in education and infrastructure development. A separate plan for the southern city of Ashkelon is in development.

Diaspora and Israeli organizations around the world will participate in a mass mourners' prayer this Sabbath in commemoration of those Jews who died and were buried in inaccessible locations in Arab countries across the Middle East and North Africa. The initiative will take place on the closest Sabbath to November 30, which has been declared by Israel the Day to Commemorate the Departure and Expulsion of Jews from Arab Countries and Iran. Thus far, over 100 organizations and communities have signed up at www.KaddishInitiative.com, including the Israeli umbrella organization for Jews from Arab countries that represents millions of people in the Jewish state. Diaspora Affairs Minister Omer Yankelovich joined the call to recite the prayers. "A fundamental cornerstone of the Jewish tradition is our collective memory," he asserted, adding, "by reciting the Mourner's Kaddish and an Azkara on the Shabbat of November 28, we will stand united in solidarity, in honor of those we cannot physically pay our respects to."

The Knesset gave an initial go-ahead to two bills aimed at providing support for victims of domestic violence Wednesday, as the world marked the 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women'. (Note: Abuse of women in Israel has increased by 30% in Israel during the Covid-19 period). One bill would protect women living in shelters from losing their jobs, and the other would remove guardianship rights for fathers convicted of domestic homicide. They both passed a preliminary reading, but must still go through three more readings and committee markup before becoming law. The parliament vote came after the Ministerial Committee for Legislation overcame coalition tensions to convene and approve the bills. The panel, which determines whether the government will back legislative measures, had been prevented from meeting by increasingly frayed ties between the Likud and Blue&White parties, which have threatened to bring down the government.

Protecting Israel's Qualitative Military Edge after F-35 Sale to UAE (by Maj.-Gen. (ret.) Yaakov Amidror in *Defense Post*. The writer was the national security adviser to the prime minister of Israel and head of the National Security Council.)

The sale of F-35 jets to the United Arab Emirates underscores the imperative of maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge (QME) and of ensuring that problematic regional actors do not get access to such advanced technologies. The QME doctrine is a cornerstone of Israel's national security philosophy. The Jewish state, home to nine million people, is surrounded by hundreds of millions of Arab neighbors - too many of whom remain unfortunately hostile to its existence.

There are creative ways to protect Israel's QME while allowing the UAE to obtain the jets. For instance, some of the F-35's software systems can be reserved for Israeli use. The U.S. could also elevate Israel's information-sharing clearance to overcome classification barriers that impede cooperation; pursue joint R&D ventures, akin to the development of the Arrow and David's Sling missile defense systems; and frontload defense assistance that has already been agreed to under the 10-year memorandum of understanding signed in 2016.

Lord, let Your light shine into the darkest areas of the earth. Expose all plots to harm Your people...both Jews and Christians. Thank You that there is increasing coordination between the agencies who are in charge of security and protection. We bless the security forces and police forces around the world...they have an impossible job to protect all the people all the time. Give them much wisdom and great alertness, we pray!

"YHWH discovers deep things out of darkness, and brings the shadow of death to light." (Job 12:22)

9. ANTI-SEMITISM UPDATES:

B'nai Brith Canada is applauding the federal government's announcement Thursday (Nov 26) that it will establish a position to help combat anti-Semitism. After many years of B'nai Brith advocacy calling for such a position to be created, the government indicated that it will appoint human-rights expert and former Justice Minister Irwin Cotler as its first 'Special Envoy for Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combating anti-Semitism.' B'nai Brith warmly

welcomes this decision and applauds the selection of Mr. Cotler as an excellent choice. Mr. Cotler will begin the role with a broad mandate, and will take time consulting with Jewish community leaders and organizations to develop specific plans of action on various issues. He will also become the head of Canada's delegation to the 'International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance' (IHRA) and will represent our country at the upcoming plenary in Germany. His immediate priorities will include addressing Holocaust denial and distortion, as well as strengthening domestic efforts to implement the IHRA 'Definition of anti-Semitism. Mr. Cotler will work both internationally and domestically across Canadian departments and agencies, as well as with civil society. He will also be tasked with regularly advising the Foreign Minister and the Minister for Diversity and Inclusion and Youth, as well as other ministers as needed. The latter is responsible for the government's Anti-Racism Strategy.

Anti-Semitic incidents accounted for 22% of hate crimes recorded in 2019 in Europe, though Jews comprise less than 1% of the population, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe reported last week.

Popular Egyptian film star and rapper Mohamed Ramadan faces a court hearing over a photograph shared online of him posing with Israeli singer Omer Adam during a recent visit to Dubai. The artist was accused of "insulting" the Egyptian people. Israel's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday (Nov 25) defended a prominent Egyptian singer and actor who is facing legal charges after posing for photos with Israeli celebrities. Lior Ben Dor of the Foreign Ministry's North Africa desk posted on Israel's official Arabic Twitter account: "Do you seriously believe that the criticism against him serves the Palestinians?...Don't you see the positive changes happening around you, the dialogue and the cooperation? Wake up! We're in 2020. Israel lives in peace with four Arab countries and has contact with most Arab states."

As many non-resident Jews around the world are buying houses in Israel as a place to run to in these uncertain times – show them that now is that time to make Aliyah and live in Israel (Jer. 30:3). Use the caution that Jews in the West are fearful to set their Chanukah Menorah openly in a window in many cities; use this to wake them up to the danger of remaining in exile today (Jer. 16:16; Ezek. 39:28). Provide affordable housing for all Israelis – new immigrants, those living here for many years, and even the Sabras who were born in Israel (Isa. 65:21-22). Grant wisdom to the Israeli government in how to welcome Jonathan Pollard home (Neh. 1:10; 5:8). As Ethiopia becomes more unstable, bring all remaining Ethiopian Jews home to Israel (Isa. 43:5-7). Remove all obstacles to making Aliyah that coronavirus has placed on global travel (Isa. 62:10). Speak clearly to all Israelis living outside of Israel that this is the season to return (Isa. 2:3). Supply all the needs of the Jewish and Christian groups who are working to carry Your people home at this time (Isa. 49:22). Protect these agencies and groups from all attacks by those who refuse to see the unconditional love of Christians for Israel and the Jewish people.

"I will return Israel to his home, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan [the Golan], and his soul shall be satisfied on mount Ephraim and Gilead [northern Jordan]. In those days... the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and none; and the sins of Judah shall not be found: for I will pardon [+forgive] them whom I reserve [the remnant]." (Jeremiah 50:19-20)

10. IRAN UPDATES:

In the run-up to the Iranian presidential elections in June 2021, conservatives in Iran will try to frustrate any dialogue with the incoming USA administration. Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has minimized the significance of the USA elections, saying, "It does not matter who will be the next president in the United States....No matter which one will be elected, there is one obvious point, which is the political, civil, and moral decline of the American regime." The conservative camp in Iran emphasizes that there is no real difference between Biden and Trump. They state that only if the USA fulfills a long list of conditions that Iran will impose on it would they agree to return to the negotiating table

with Washington regarding the nuclear deal. However, they would by no means enter into a dialogue on other issues, including ballistic missiles, human rights, or regional issues.

The United States this week rapidly deployed several heavy bombers to the Middle East this week in an apparent threat to Iran, amid swirling speculation that President Trump plans to take military action against Tehran before the declaration of the next president. In a highly irregular move, the B-52H Stratofortress planes were seen flying toward Israeli airspace last Saturday en route to the base where they will be stationed, likely in Qatar. The aircraft were spotted on civilian tracking software approaching Israel before they apparently turned off their transponders, rendering them invisible on those applications.

Iran released a British-Australian scholar, Kylie Moore-Gilbert, detained since 2018 on charges of spying for Israel, in a prisoner swap conducted Wednesday (Nov 25) for three Iranian men detained in Thailand since 2012 for planning to bomb Bangkok and assassinate Israeli diplomats there.

Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde formally urged Iran to cancel the scheduled execution of an Iranian-Swedish professor charged with spying for Israel. Linde delivered the official protest in a call with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif. The conversation came amid reports that Tehran was moving ahead with the plan to execute Ahmadreza Djalali, a specialist in emergency medicine who was arrested during a visit to the Islamic Republic in 2016. He was subsequently convicted of leaking information about two Iranian nuclear scientists to the Mossad, whose operatives subsequently allegedly assassinated them. By contrast, Djalali has insisted that the sentence is a result of his refusal to spy for Tehran during his stay in Europe.

The Israel Defense Forces have in recent weeks been instructed to prepare for the possibility that the USA will conduct a military strike against Iran before President Trump leaves office. The IDF's preparedness measures relate to possible Iranian retaliation against Israel directly or through Iranian proxies in Syria, Gaza and Lebanon.

Col. (ret.) Dr. Ephraim Kam, a former deputy director of Israel's Institute for National Security Studies who served in the Research Division of IDF Military Intelligence, says that USA sanctions on Iran have been "effective in weakening" the government in Tehran. "Although America's 'maximum pressure policy' didn't speak of collapsing the regime, it did want to apply increasing pressure on that country [to weaken it]. The government in Tehran is sensitive to what's happening on the ground. For them, the concern is not only their economy but also the civil unrest that they are trying to prevent."

Just hours before flying to Saudi Arabia, PM Netanyahu issued a clear warning against reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, in what analysts are seeing as an apparent message to Joe Biden. Speaking at an annual memorial event for Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, Netanyahu said, "We will not allow Iran to get nuclear weapons...There can be no going back to the previous nuclear agreement. We must stick to an uncompromising policy of ensuring that Iran will not develop nuclear weapons." The international community must stop Iran's "aggressive behavior, including its support for terror," he added.

Abba, bless the "Iran Command" division of the IDF whose sole focus is on the Iranian threat (Jam. 1:8). Reveal to them all the information that they need to function super-effectively (Luke 12:2). Release the remaining 7,000 or so Jews left in Iran (Zech. 8:7a). Father, protect the growing Iranian Church from all spirits of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism (Rom. 11:18). Weaken the hold on the Iranian people from their wicked leaders (Jer. 49:38). Cause all their demonic plans to fail and openly bring them to shame. Stir up the Iranian people to overthrow their wicked leaders (Hag. 2:22). Abba, may all their proxies somehow become contributors to the Iranian regime's downfall. We bless You for the miraculous work You are doing in building Your church in Iran (Matt. 16:18). Give the body of Messiah in Iran

wisdom and anointing to know how to intercede for their nation, their government and their relationship with Israel (1 Tim. 3:1-4; Gen. 12:3).

"You are my King, O God: command deliverances for Jacob. Through You we will push down our enemies: through Your name we will tread them under that rise up against us." (Psalm 44:4-5)

11. ISRAEL GOOD NEWS ITEMS:

The Water Authority is preparing for the possibility that it may need to open the Degania Dam for the first time in 25 years as the Kinneret remains high after two years of especially rainy winters. If the rainfall in the coming winter exceeds 90% of the perennial average, then the dam will need to be opened. The hydrological service's forecasts predict that the coming winter will have slightly lower rainfall than the perennial average, but the Kinneret is already just a little less than 1.2 meters below the upper red line which marks a full lake, due to the last two rainy winters. The Water Authority, therefore, believes that there is a likelihood that the Kinneret will fill up this winter and that the Degania Dam will need to be opened. The opening of the dam will likely take place around April 2021 if the water level rises high enough.

Israeli scientists have used new technology to destroy cancerous cells in mice that targets only affected cells, while leaving everything around them intact. "This is the first study in the world to prove that the CRISPR genome editing system, which works by cutting DNA, can effectively be used to treat cancer in an animal," said Prof. Dan Peer, a cancer expert from Tel Aviv University, after his peer-reviewed research was published in the Science Advances journal. He added, "There are no side effects, and we believe that a cancer cell treated in this way will never become active again...Within three treatments we can destroy a tumor. This technology can physically cut the DNA in cancerous cells, and those cells will not survive." Peer called it "a more elegant chemotherapy" and said he dreams that it will replace that treatment.

Global governments may be voting against Israel in the United Nations General Assembly, but they clearly have no qualms about sending their best and brightest solar engineers to the Negev to work with Israelis on renewable energy. Israel's Ministries of Finance and Energy, as well as its Land Authority and the Public Utilities Authority/Electricity this week published a tender for the construction of the Jewish State's largest solar power plant, to be built near the Negev city of Dimona. The response to a request for bids was overwhelming. An unprecedented number of respondents answered the call – 27 consortia from various countries – to begin the pre-screening process. The solar power plant is to span 750 acres (more than 3,000 dunams) and is intended to produce electricity using photovoltaic technology, according to the Globes business news site. Included in the published tender is a requirement to integrate energy storage into the solar batteries in the project. Part of the power produced will be stored, making it possible to supply solar-produced power at night when no sunlight is available but demand for electricity is high. The project is intended to help achieve the government's target of 30 percent of Israel's energy needs being met from renewable sources by 2030.

Israeli judoka Peter Paltchik won gold last weekend, defeating Russia's Arman Adamian in the under-100 kilogram weight class at this year's 2020 European Judo Championships tournament in Prague. Paltchik stood tall at the medal ceremony as Hatikvah was played throughout the hall. The Ukraine-born Olympic athlete became the new 100kg European gold medalist at the European Judo Championship in Prague. Fellow Israeli judoka Tal Flicker won a silver medal in a separate weight class.

The Tel Aviv Samsung Marathon 2021, the largest sports event in the State of Israel, will take place for the thirteenth time on February 19, 2021. Like other leading world marathons, the event will take place in an innovative format, in

keeping with Health Ministry guidelines. The motto “All Running Together Separately” will be at the heart of the event, inviting all runners, amateurs and professionals alike, to excel and join thousands of other participants across the country at the same time, each one following a course designed especially for him or her. The event is an initiative of Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality, produced by Kapaim, and will include a Marathon (42.195 km), half-marathon (21.1 km), 10 km and 5 km (**Note:** More than 40,000 runners participated in the Tel Aviv Samsung Marathon on February 2020. Participants enjoyed a stunning 42 km route winding its way through the beating heart of the city, running through Sarona, Rabin Square, Old Jaffa and the white sandy beaches of the Mediterranean Sea.)

Thank You, that You continue to bless Israel. Thank You that You have chosen to bless the world through the Jewish people. May the world see these inventions and discoveries as a fulfillment of Your promise to Abraham!

“The LORD had said unto Abram, ‘Get out of your country, from your kindred, and your father's house, unto a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great. And you shall be a blessing...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed’” (Genesis 12:1-3)