

ISRAEL INTERCESSORY PRAYER ITEMS

October 23-30, 2020

1. A NEW APPROACH...JEWS AND CHRISTIANS STUDYING THE TORAH TOGETHER

A new venture has been launched in which Jews and Christians are enabled to come online and study the Torah together each Sunday. It is called **eNoam Studying The Torah Together**. The discussion is led by 9 panelists who discuss a selected Torah topic. Attendees take part by entering on the **Zoom** platform or on **YouTube Live**; attendees post their chats which are monitored and shared. To learn more about the panelists, go to: <https://www.return.co.il/home>

For those interested in participating, go to the links below at **2 pm EDT on Sundays**:

Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81889437271>

YouTube Live

Go to **YouTube** any time after 2 pm EDT...type **eNoam Studying The Torah Together** in the Search Bar...look for the **LIVE** video and click to watch

Father, use these Torah discussions to bring Your light to Your people through Your Word. May You be exalted in all these sessions where Jews and Christians seek to find truth and freedom. We bless the leaders of this new venture. Give them much wisdom and insight as they proceed week by week.

"Incline your ear, and come to Me: hear, and your soul shall live, and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people. Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you because of YHWH your God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified you." (Isaiah 55:3-5)

2. ISRAEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES:

Active coronavirus cases in Israel dropped to 19,344 on Thursday (Oct 22) morning following a month-long national lockdown. On October 2nd, the number of active cases had reached 72,164. The number of serious cases dropped to 581, after peaking at 900 on October 4th. 231 patients are on ventilators. The death toll has reached 2,292. Health Minister Yuli Edelstein also reported Wednesday that within the past 24 hours, 1,165 people had tested positive for the virus out of 41,193 tests carried out, with a positivity rate of 2.8 percent.

Once again, Israel's Coronavirus Cabinet ended a marathon session Wednesday (Oct 21) evening with a decision to put off making any decision until its meeting next week. The meeting was started, however, by PM Netanyahu saying that restrictions are going to be lifted in less than nine stages, albeit at a gradual pace. Towards the end of the meeting, the prime minister recommended trimming the nine steps of the exit plan to six steps. He also warned that at any stage, those same restrictions could be reimposed if the situation begins to worsen.

Sheba Medical Center's ARC innovation hub on Tuesday unveiled its newly formed partnership with Newsight Imaging's spinoff company-VIRUSIGHT DIAGNOSTIC. Founded in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 'Virusight', which is an AI software company, was created to develop an accurate, real-time virus diagnosis solution. The company uses unique spectral acquisition and analysis technology, for pathogenic diagnosis. The company is currently developing and testing revolutionary COVID-19 rapid tests, based on Newsight Imaging's spectral technology while using a non-invasive oral rinse. The technology allows for an immediate, affordable, and portable solution, which will be able to identify other viruses in the near future. During the past few months, the company's rapid COVID-19 test has been tested on hundreds of patients at Sheba with a high success rate.

More than 200 companies around the world are competing to be the first to come up with a viable vaccine. Israel has several companies in this race. To date, there are two types of vaccines in the world today, and it is not yet clear to which of them the Israeli vaccines belong.

- **The first type is based on the injection of the virus itself, or a killed virus, similar to the polio vaccine, or, alternatively, the protein of the virus, as in the hepatitis B vaccine given to babies.** The vaccine uses the substance of the virus itself. Influenza, measles, and mumps vaccines are also all made from the virus's protein.
- **The second type that is being developed today is done using the latest technology that utilizes the genes of the virus. These genes are not virus proteins, they are just the genetic pattern injected into humans, and the human cells form the proteins according to the guidelines of the injected genes.** The vast majority of the vaccines in discussion recently belong to this group. It is a new generation of vaccines, and to date, no such vaccine has been used successfully on humans. The efforts to develop these vaccines enjoy large investments from governments and corporations because they can be manufactured in an industrialized mode in very large quantities.

Abba, guide Israel's leaders to open Israel once again (Isa. 42:16). Provide real statistics so that those responsible will make decisions based on truth (Psa. 25:5; 43:3). Block all of Israel's special interest groups from pushing only their own agendas and not thinking of what is best for the nation as a whole (Num. 32:16-19). Lower the flames of strife between the Haredi and the police (Prov. 15:1, 18). In fact, lower the flames of strife between the Haredi and many other Israelis (Eccl. 7:9). Give divine guidance concerning the whole educational structure's restart (Psa. 23:3b). Comfort all those hurting over finances, or emotional and mental states (2 Cor. 1:3-4). Lead the Messianic Body to know how to navigate in these new waters (Psa. 25:9; 31:3; Jer. 31:9). Help Believers to be a holy example, especially as Your return is drawing near (2 Pet. 3:8-12). Give gifts of words of wisdom or knowledge to all Believers who have any sort of access to any of Israel's leaders, and open up doors for them to speak (1 Cor. 12:8).

"It is of YHWH's covenant-faithfulness that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new [or 'renewed'] every morning: great is Your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23)

3. POST UAE-BAHRAIN AGREEMENTS UPDATES:

Diplomats from the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday (Oct 20) made their first official trip to Israel since the countries normalized relations in August, and the two sides signed pacts deepening their ties. A new direct flight agreement has been inked between Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain, just two days after the Jewish State signed a similar agreement with the United Arab Emirates. In fact, there were new agreements signed just two days ago allowing for 28 direct weekly flights each by Etihad and Emirates Airlines between Tel Aviv and Abu Dhabi, and Tel Aviv and Dubai, (yes – a total of up to 112 flights per week). The Bahrain agreement allows an unlimited number of direct flights between Bahrain and Eilat, up to five cargo flights per week, and up to 14 passenger flights weekly between the Bahraini capital of Manama and Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv. (**Note:** Since Israeli aircraft are also now allowed to fly through Gulf airspace, the flight times are going to be considerably shorter between Israel and destinations in Asia and Australia, creating the potential for a drop in fares in flights to those destinations)

Israel and the UAE have opened talks over use of the Eilat-Ashkelon oil pipeline linking the Red Sea with the Mediterranean, the Europe Asia Pipeline Co., controlled by Israel's government. The pipeline, built by Israel and Iran in the 1960s, has a capacity of 600,000 barrels a day and 23 million barrels of storage space.

The USA, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates are proud to announce the establishment of the Abraham Fund, which fulfils a commitment made in the Abraham Accords. Through this fund, the USA International Development Finance Corporation, the UAE, and Israel will mobilize more than \$3 billion in private sector-led investment and development initiatives to promote regional economic cooperation and prosperity in the Middle East and beyond. The partners welcome participation from other countries to advance these objectives. This initiative is an integral part of the historic peace accord signed by the UAE and the State of Israel with the United States' support, and demonstrates the benefits of peace by improving the lives of the region's peoples. It is a manifestation of the new spirit of friendship and cooperation between the three countries, as well their common will to advance the region. The countries will trilaterally open a development office based in Israel to identify and initiate strategic projects with a high developmental impact, including those that catalyze economic growth, improve standards of living, and create high-value, quality jobs.

Israel's Chamber of Commerce has signed an agreement of cooperation with the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), marking the opening of trade ties between the two countries following the establishment of formal ties. The two commerce bodies agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding for business cooperation, which was signed by Uriel Lin, president of the Israeli Association of Chambers of Commerce, and Ze'ev Lavie, director of the association's foreign relations division. They were joined by an official delegation of representatives from the BCCI.

PM Netanyahu and Transportation Minister Miri Regev toured the pier at Haifa port on Monday, where a container ship from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is anchored. The Mediterranean Shipping Company's (MSC) Heid was carrying a cargo of electric appliances from the UAE. The 'MSC Paris' made history last week when it became the first ship from the UAE to dock at Haifa's port. Its voyage began in Abu Dhabi and called in Dubai and the ports in India and Pakistan before reaching the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal. During the visit, Netanyahu relayed that he asked what is in the containers, "and they explained to me – washing machines. This is now lowering the price of washing machines, electric devices and food. Everything that arrives here simply lowers the cost of living and every citizen of Israel will feel the impact of it."

91 U.S. Senators and 372 House members have co-sponsored bipartisan resolutions in support of the Abraham Accords to normalize ties between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain.

Sudan has decided to normalize relations with Israel. PM Netanyahu on Wednesday (Oct 21) rushed out of a cabinet meeting to answer a phone call regarding the new peace deal, much as he had done more than a month ago ahead of the deal with the United Arab Emirates. Two senior Israeli diplomats arrived in the Sudanese capital Khartoum on Wednesday. The official, public announcement of the decision is expected this coming weekend. Trump tweeted on Monday: "GREAT news! New government of Sudan, which is making great progress, agreed to pay \$335 MILLION to USA terror victims and families. Once deposited, I will lift Sudan from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list. At long last, JUSTICE for the American people and BIG step for Sudan!" (**Note:** Sudan has agreed to pay \$335 million to compensate victims of Al-Qaeda attacks on U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998 and the Navy destroyer Cole in 2000. American courts have concluded that Sudan was complicit in the attacks. Incidentally, the reported \$335 million compensation Sudan agreed to pay American terror victims will most likely come out of a \$3 billion debt forgiveness the USA reportedly promised Sudan.)

Nearly 80% of Saudis are in favour of working towards normalizing ties with Israel within the next five years, with 71% even thinking it likely that other Arab states will normalize ties without a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians, according to a new poll. The study surveyed attitudes among Israelis and Arabs from five different countries (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Palestine and Jordan).

An Israeli security source confirmed on Thursday evening that as part of the recent peace agreements signed with the United States' encouragement between Israel and Arab countries in the Middle East, the USA plans to pursue arms deals with every country that resolves its differences with Israel. The arms deals will come after the signing of additional peace agreements between the State of Israel and other Arab countries. The USA stressed that Israel's advantage in the Middle East will be maintained in the face of further agreements on the way. Defense Minister Benny Gantz met USA Secretary of Defense Mark Esper at the Pentagon on Thursday (Oct 22) where they signed a joint declaration confirming Washington's strategic commitment to maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge in the Middle East.

Thank You for the warmth of the relations that the Emirati and Bahraini peoples are expressing towards Israelis (1 Kin. 5:7-12). Send dreams and visions of Yeshua to all those Arabs, especially in these two nations, who truly desire a genuine relationship with Israel, and save multitudes (Eph. 2:11-14). Use these warm relations to provoke to jealousy many Jordanians and Egyptians – most of whom are very cold toward Israel (Ruth 1:16-17; Isa. 55:5; 60:3; Zech. 8:23). If normalization of relations with Sudan is not of You – prevent them from happening (Lam. 3:37). Make Israel wise in all its security commitments with any Arab nation (Josh. 9:3-15). Lord, please forbid the building of any altar to the idol of peace in Your land (Deut. 7:5; 12:3). Let us see altars to the Prince of Peace built in every area of Israel (Gen. 33:20; Isa. 9:6).

"For your Maker is your husband; YHWH of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; He shall be called the God of the whole earth." (Isaiah 54:5)

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

Syria

Three militiamen linked to the Lebanese Hezbollah terror organization were killed on Tuesday (Oct 20) night during an attack attributed to Israel on a school compound in the Quneitra area, near Israel's border with Syria. One Syrian was killed. The nationalities of the others are not known, and they may be foreigners, members of Shi'ite militias deployed in Syria and backed by Iran. A rocket, allegedly launched by Israel, targeted a school hosting groups loyal to the Hezbollah and Iranian forces in Al-Huriyyah village. Hezbollah and Iranian-backed militias are known to be active in the Quneitra area [located on the Golan Heights border], which has experienced repeated attacks, in the past few years. "Israel will not allow terrorist entities aligned with Hezbollah or Iran to entrench themselves on Israel's Golan Heights border, and will do whatever is necessary to push them back," Defense Minister Benny Gantz told Israel media outlets.

More than 45,000 Syrians have registered with the Russian Army at Khmeimim Airbase in Latakia to enlist for military action in Libya. Tens of thousands of their compatriots are already there, recruited by the Russian private military contractor Wagner Group. A Syrian fighter who returned from Libya told Beirut-based Raseef22 news that anyone between the ages of 18 and 58 is eligible to enlist. Guards earn \$1,000 a month, while combat soldiers receive three times more. They work for three months straight, after which they receive a month-long paid vacation in Syria. Turkey is also sending Syrian militiamen under its patronage to fight on the other side in Libya, and is recruiting Syrian refugees living within its borders as well. Moreover, Turkey has sent 1,200 Syrian fighters, mostly belonging to the Turkmen ethnic group, to aid Azeri forces in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Lebanon

Protesters in Lebanon will not be pleased, but lawmakers and the country's elite agreed that former PM Sa'ad Hariri is the only one who has any chance of forming a new cabinet within any reasonable time. Hariri, whose government was overthrown by a popular uprising a year ago, was recruited to re-form a government after several attempts by other candidates dissolved under the pressure of internecine fighting. And since the mammoth explosion at Beirut Port in

August that ripped the capital to pieces just a few months ago, there's not much left of the country to salvage, financially, politically and emotionally: there is non-stop fighting taking place at all levels of the government economically and politically. Lebanese citizens – who have been in the streets protesting for about a year – are now facing the prospect of a winter battle with coronavirus and possibly little or no food, even as they scramble to make ends meet economically from one week to the next. They're exhausted physically and emotionally. In his acceptance speech on Thursday, Hariri said he would move as quickly as possible to put the new government together, "because time is running out and this is our beloved country's last and only chance."

Estonia has banned entry to members of the Iranian proxy terror group, Hezbollah, both its political arm and its military wing. Hezbollah poses a significant threat to international security – and thus to Estonia's security. By imposing a sanction, Estonia supports the approach of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia and its other partners that Hezbollah uses terrorist means and is a security threat to many countries.

Iraq

Iraq's former deputy prime minister and well-known politician Bahaa al-Araji said in a television interview Wednesday (Oct 21) that "Iraq is very prepared to normalize relations with Israel, and the conditions are well-suited." Referring to the Shiite religious authorities in Najaf, he said, "It is possible that the normalization decision will come from the Najaf governorate, not from the capital, Baghdad."

Turkey

Turkey announced on Wednesday (Oct 21) that it is extending gas exploration in Greek and Cypriot waters until October 27. According to the Turkish Navy, the survey ship, Oruc Reis, and two other vessels, the Ataman and Cengiz Han, will also continue work in the disputed maritime zone, which is southeast of the Greek island of Rhodes. Turkey pulled the Oruç Reis back last month ahead of a European Union summit during which Cyprus pushed for sanctions against Ankara. After it returned to the eastern Mediterranean Sea this month to explore energy resources in Greek and Cypriot waters, Greece, France and Germany criticized the move. On Wednesday, Greece tried to get the European Union to rethink its Customs Union agreement with Turkey. USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in September that the United States is concerned about Turkey's actions in the area.

Turkey fired a missile as a test of its Russian-made S-400 air defense system last Friday (Oct 16), a move that breaks an agreement with the USA and risks the imposition of sanctions by Congress. Under an agreement with the Trump administration, Turkey had kept the missile system under wraps and since April had made no move to activate it. The State Department spokeswoman said, "We would condemn in the strongest terms the S-400 test missile launch as incompatible with Turkey's responsibilities as a NATO ally and strategic partner of the United States. We have also been clear on the potential serious consequences of our security relationship if Turkey activates the system."

While we look to You to protect Israel (Psa. 121:4), we also thank You for making the IDF the fulfillment of that prophesied exceedingly great army coming out of the Holocaust (Ezek. 37:10). Almighty Lord of hosts, continue to give wisdom and guidance to Israel's Navy and Air Force to see how to protect the specific areas under their responsibilities (Psa. 3:8; Prov. 21:31). Use the IDF as Your strong fist against Your enemies and as a shield for Your people (Ex. 14:20). Keep them alert against snipers, kidnapping, road side bombs, etc. (Neh. 4:9). Lord, You hear the threats of Israel's enemies. Hinder all their efforts to kill IDF soldiers. Let them all be confounded and turned back that hate Zion. (Psa. 129:5) Amen!

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

5. GAZA UPDATES:

Two rockets were fired in an attack on southern Israel by terrorists in Gaza shortly after 10 pm Thursday (Oct 22) night. The Iron Dome system downed one of the rockets overhead. The system calculates which projectile is headed for heavily populated areas and moves to intercept it in the skies far above. But the timing is tricky and requires a soldier to be extremely alert, attentive and have excellent reflexes. The attack triggered the Red Alert incoming rocket sirens in the coastal city of Ashkelon as well as the Ashkelon Coast Regional Council district and that of communities in the Gaza Envelope. The second rocket landed in an open area in the Ashkelon Coast Regional Council district. No property damage was reported,

The IDF on Tuesday (Oct 20) announced it had pinpointed a terror tunnel dug by Hamas from Gaza that stretched dozens of meters into Israeli territory. It had been dug from the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis across the border toward the Israeli community of Kibbutz Kissufim. Israeli farmers were ordered not to work in their fields or any other areas near the Gaza border fence due to concerns of possible sniper fire. **(Note:** Israel began building its anti-tunnel barrier on the Gaza border in 2017. Most of the barrier, both above and below ground, is finished, and it's slated to be completed by March 2021 at a cost of \$890 million. To date, around 20 tunnels have been discovered, some of them thanks to technologies deployed while building the barrier. That's what happened with the latest tunnel discovered along the Gaza border. It was deep underground, penetrated into Israel, but it didn't get past the barrier. This is a relatively new tunnel that has been built over the past few years and was discovered before it was finished.)

Hours after Israel announced the destruction of the above-mentioned terror tunnel, a rocket fired from Gaza was intercepted by Israeli missile defenses. There were no reports of casualties or damage.

This week, Israel released information concerning a drone attack carried out on November 12, 2019. An Israeli Air Force drone carried out a surgical strike to eliminate the commander of the Gaza division of Palestinian Islamic Jihad's al-Quds Brigades, Baha Abu al-Ata, who was the mastermind behind 99% of the terrorist attacks emanating from Gaza in recent years and he was single-handedly disrupting the delicate status quo between Israel and Hamas. Intelligence indicated that he was planning additional rocket and sniper attacks on Israeli communities near the Gaza border. Drone surveillance enabled the IDF to know not only where Ata was at any given time, but also when his children were with him. The IDF is certain that this successful mission saved many Israeli lives.

Hamas has not yet given its official consent to the Palestinian Authority's (PA) forthcoming elections, although a month and a half has passed since the secretaries' summit in which Fatah and Hamas leaders met. Fatah is still waiting for Hamas' response. As well, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing in the Gaza Strip, is delaying the final response, fearing that the PA elections and reconciliation with Fatah will hinder its actions. Experts believe that Iran is pressuring Hamas not to agree to reconciliation and conditions that would harm the armed struggle against Israel. **(Note:** Egypt does not approve of hosting the conference unless Hamas gives its clear consent in advance to reconciliation and new elections in the PA. Fatah is examining whether it will be possible to hold the conference in Algeria to circumvent the sensitivity involved in holding the conference in Egypt, which is angry at Abbas for choosing to convene the factions in Turkey, it's rival.)

Arab states have stopped giving money to the Palestinian Authority because of American pressure, deputy Hamas leader Saleh al-Aroui told Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV last Friday (Oct 16). Aroui noted that "The Palestinian, Arab and Islamic right is all of Palestine. This is our right and no one can change our minds in this regard."

In a scene from "Self-Sacrificing Fighter," produced by Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV, an armed terrorist enters a restaurant in Tel Aviv and shoots Israeli Jewish diners. Following the attack, a Palestinian woman being interrogated by an Israeli investigator explains that while Islam forbids murdering civilians, killing Israeli Jews is justified because they are all "criminals."

Thank You for helping the IDF discover and destroy another terror tunnel under the Gaza fence this past week (Luke 12:2). If there are others that the IDF is unaware of – please uncover them quickly (Job 12:22). Let Hamas pay a steep price for this attempt to kill and kidnap Jews (Eccl. 8:11). Expose where Hamas' "extra" money comes from and dry up that source totally (Jer. 51:35-36).

“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)

6. PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY UPDATES:

The murder today in the north of the Judea-Samaria has raised the concern of Palestinian Authority human rights organizations who are protesting the murder of a pregnant woman, the mother of two, in the village of Nabi Ilyas, two kilometers east of Qalqilya. They expressed concern for the murder of the young woman and called for immediate action to enact clear measures to protect PA women. PA police said the body of the 24-year-old woman was found in her home. The body was sent for forensic analysis and that police are investigating the murder. The PA Ministry of Social Affairs condemned what it described as the “heinous murder” of the woman, and accused her husband of the murder. WAFA cited unconfirmed reports that the husband, who was drunk and is a drug user, was detained by police. **(Note:** In Israel, 19 women have been murdered since the beginning of 2020, 17 of them since the start of the pandemic. Of this number, 13 were Israeli Arab women.)

A resident of the Palestinian Authority (PA) on Thursday (Oct 22) filed a first of its kind lawsuit in a PA court in Ramallah against the British government following the Balfour Declaration. The Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917, was a letter from British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour to Baron Walter Rothschild stating that “His Majesty’s government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.” In 1922, the League of Nations adopted this position and made the British Mandate “responsible for putting into effect the declaration,” which led to the UN vote in 1947 and the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. The lawsuit was filed by tycoon Munib al-Masri, on behalf of the Independent National Forum and the International Institution for the Monitoring of Palestinian Rights. This is a precedent-setting lawsuit that follows the PA’s repeated demand that Britain withdraw from the Balfour Declaration and apologize for it, which recognizes the right of Jews to a national home.

A special emissary to Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas announced on Facebook that he and other Palestinian leaders are planning an “escalation of the resistance” against Israel that will include the “sacrifice” of Palestinian children. In an October 7 Facebook post, Fatah Central Committee Secretary Jibril Rajoub wrote that the historically fiercely divided Fatah and Hamas Palestinian groups would unite in the execution of this planned new wave of violence: “We are prepared to sacrifice... We will sacrifice our children.” PA leader Saeb Erekat had similarly threatened “Bloodshed and the spread of chaos in the region” in a comment to the media. However, Erekat has since become seriously ill with COVID-19 and requested to be taken to Israel’s Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem, where he is currently receiving treatment.

Palestinians from the ruling Fatah faction have accused visitors to the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem from the UAE of "desecrating" the holy site. Shadi Mtour, a Fatah leader from eastern Jerusalem, accused the Gulf delegation of nine men and one woman of "storming al-Aqsa Mosque," a phrase regularly used by Palestinians to describe tours by Jews to the Temple Mount. Palestinians on social media called for replacing the carpets where the visitors prayed.

A spokesperson for the Palestinian Authority's ruling Fatah faction claimed in a tweet that "the transfer of Saeb Erekat to Hadassah Medical Center (in Jerusalem) has nothing to do with him contracting coronavirus, but rather to complications related to a lung transplant he underwent three years ago. "The hospital was chosen since it is the closest one (to Ramallah) with the right equipment and team needed for the treatment," he wrote. "Erekat was transferred to Hadassah Medical Center because a treatment abroad is not possible during the pandemic." On Monday (Oct 19) evening, a hospital spokesperson said Erekat was "ventilated on high concentration of oxygen and on nitric oxide gas and is in the prone position. He has received concentrated convalescent plasma with high levels of anti-COVID antibodies. We have consulted with specialists from Tel Aviv, New York and Washington. Prognosis remains very guarded." The family Erekat has reportedly asked to "come and say goodbye" after his condition deteriorated and became critical. Outraged families of terror victims and activists demonstrated outside Jerusalem's Hadassah Ein Kerem Medical Center to protest the VIP treatment given to Erekat. Members of the 'Choose Life Forum' and the Im Tirtzu movement pointed out that a top Palestinian Authority politician, albeit in critical condition, is being treated as well or possibly better than the average Israeli citizen.

Why Israel Chose to Aid Ailing PLO Leader *(by Jonathan S. Tobin in JNS)*

When Palestine Liberation Organization leader Saeb Erekat recently fell ill with Covid-19, instead of going to a Palestinian or Jordanian hospital, he chose to go to Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem. This is the same person who spent his career smearing Israel as a nation of oppressors and war criminals. As the PA's chief negotiator, he's spent his tenure working to make peace negotiations impossible, swearing that he will never recognize Israel as a Jewish state and end the ongoing conflict.

Jewish values still play a crucial part in Israel's decision-making. While it's doubtful that any other country would be so generous to an enemy, the notion that Israel would turn away a person in need is inconceivable. There is a specific Jewish obligation to help others rather than to stand by only watching their plight. Behaving decently to those who would not reciprocate is still the default position of any government of the Jewish state.

Have mercy on Israel's enemies, the generations of Palestinians taught to hate Jews (Matt. 5:44). Work among them in miraculous ways through the Palestinian Church (Mark 16:17-18). Lord, arise and prevent the creation of a "Palestine" on Your land (Lev. 25:23; Psa. 10:16). Continue to confound those who hate Zion (Psa. 35:26). Provide the IDF and all the other Israeli security forces with all of the intelligence information that they need to protect innocent Israelis and Arabs throughout the land (Job 12:22). Send Your wisdom to the IDF high command to place the right personnel and equipment in the right places – and at the right times (Prov. 21:31). Protect Israel's armed forces from catching and spreading coronavirus (Psa. 91:3-7). We ask You to guard Israel, and give it great wisdom, for the time after many of the current, very old, PA leaders die (Psa. 121:4; Jer. 31:10).

"If you go to war in your land against an adversary that attacks you, then blow an alarm with the trumpets, and you shall be remembered before YHWH your God, and you shall be saved from your enemies." (Numbers 10:9)

7. 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)*

USA Ambassador David Friedman told the Kohelet Policy Forum on Wednesday (Oct 21): "The position of the United States is that Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria will never be evacuated...We believe [that] in [the] long run, it is in Israel's interest and America's interest to extend [Israeli] sovereignty over these communities."

Israeli police, early Tuesday (Oct 20) morning, arrested 16 suspects involved in a complex cellular fraud case amounting to \$200,000, the culmination of a prolonged undercover investigation. The central unit in the police's Hof District conducted an undercover investigation in recent months into suspected fraud amounting to hundreds of thousands of NIS by a group of 16 people from all over the country, who systematically operated for a long time under the organized management of a couple from Kiryat Tivon in their 40s. According to the suspicion, the group fraudulently extracted large sums of money from dozens of victims by taking over their cell phone subscriptions in a sophisticated method, and penetrating through the phones into the bank accounts they owned, so that they were able to withdraw money or transfer funds to other accounts.

Israel has declined to renew the visas of most of the international workers of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) since August, after its publication in February of a blacklist of companies doing business in Judea and Samaria. It was the first list of its kind about any country. At the time, the Israel Foreign Ministry announced it was cutting ties with the OHCHR, and PM Netanyahu said that "whoever boycotts us will be boycotted." The international staff were working remotely anyway due to the Covid-19 pandemic, so "operationally speaking, there has been little impact so far," said OHCHR spokesman Rupert Colville.

The Communications Ministry last week issued a change in its licensing policy for new operators seeking to provide a high-speed broadband Internet access infrastructure service. The ministry said it would reduce the barriers faced by small companies that want to provide the service, thus opening up an entirely new area of competition in the communications market – local distribution of advanced technology. The ministry expected the move to significantly accelerate the deployment of advanced infrastructure in small localities in the Judea and Samaria settlements as well as in the periphery communities, rural areas, and low-construction areas that have not been connected to ultra-fast Internet infrastructure so far. **But on Monday night, Communications Minister Yoaz Hendel (Derech Eretz) claimed that his ministry's initiative was being blocked by Finance Minister Israel Katz (Likud).**

France is mourning a middle school teacher who was beheaded in a Paris suburb last Friday (Oct 16), after showing pupils cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. Authorities said French police killed the 18-year-old knife-wielding teenager and detained several people. The victim was 47-year-old Samuel Paty, the school's much-loved history and geography teacher. The suspect was reportedly furious that teacher Paty had shown pupils cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad that Muslims consider blasphemous. Paty used the caricatures as part of a lesson on freedom of expression. The cartoons were first published five years ago by French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo. That prompted Islamic terrorists to attack its offices, killing a dozen people. **(Note: This beheading has triggered a broad government crackdown against Muslim individuals and groups in France. There have been dozens of raids throughout the country, the closure of a prominent mosque, the shutting down of Muslim aid organizations, and the mass expulsion of foreigners identified in government antiterrorism files. France has banned the "Cheikh Yassine Collective," a pro-Hamas group named after the founder of the Gaza-based terrorist organization was accused of being involved in the murder. French President Macron told reporters during a visit to a Paris suburb when speaking about the case, "This is not about making more statements. Our fellow citizens expect actions. These actions will be stepped up." Macron said that he wanted to see "tangible results" to battle an "ideology of destruction of the [French] Republic.")**

Ahead of the Nov. 3 presidential election, some 75 percent of USA Jews would vote for Democratic nominee Joe Biden, while 22 percent would vote to re-elect USA President Donald Trump, according to a poll released on Monday

by the American Jewish Committee. In 2016, 71 percent of American Jews voted for Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, while 24 percent voted for Trump. Trump is preferred by 74 percent of Orthodox, 23 percent of Conservative, 20 percent of Reform, 3 percent of Reconstructionist and 14 percent of secular Jews. Biden is the choice of 18 percent of Orthodox, 72 percent of Conservative, 78 percent of Reform, 93 percent of Reconstructionist and 83 percent of Secular Jews.

Nearly three-quarters of the trash found in Israeli waters in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea consists of bits of plastic bags and plastic containers. A survey was released just a day after the Knesset Interior Affairs and Environmental Protection committees heard that targets for plastic bag reduction in the coming years, which should have been embedded in Knesset regulations by 2018, have not advanced beyond the desk of two Environmental Protection ministers, in violation of the law. Despite pleas from ministry officials to step up activity, no public awareness campaigns to cut plastic bags have been run since 2016 because they were “not ministerial priorities.”

A new report has shown that the proportion of Jews living in Europe is at its lowest level in 900 years. The new study traces Jewish demographic development over almost 1,000 years, and offers up-to-date estimates of population counts and trends today.

- Among the study's key findings is the fact that, 150 years ago, some 88% of all Jews lived in Europe. Today that proportion is 9%. Today's count is almost the same as it was 900 years ago, in 1170, when some 12% of all Jews lived in Europe.
- Moreover, the study found, Europe lost nearly 60% of its Jewish population over the last 50 years. France has the largest number of Jews, but this number is estimated to have dropped by around 15% since 1975.
- Russia was found to have lost over 60% of its Jewish population in a generation. In 1994 there were 409,000 Jews living in Russia but there are now just around 155,000: following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russian Jews were the largest immigrant population to move to Israel.

The study showed that Jews have more affinity with the European Union than with the general populations of individual Member States. This was particularly so for Jews in Hungary, Poland, Austria, and Italy.

Some 70% of Holocaust survivors require financial assistance, up 3% from three years ago. Three years ago, the Foundation for the Welfare of Holocaust Victims, which is under the Finance Ministry, was advised to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the needs of those who survived the Holocaust and are now living in Israel. It was provided with a budget of \$5 million and was able to obtain data on 22% of known survivors in three years. Distress buttons, which summon medical help when pressed by the elderly in their homes, are funded by donations, and the 9,000 survivors who currently have them might lose them. The website maintained by the foundation as a primary source of information used by survivors to claim their pensions and rights was said to be “in need of improvement.”

Thousands of volunteers are expected to take part in an attempt to break the world record for the largest beach clean-up on Israel's coasts along the Mediterranean Sea and the Sea of Galilee (Kinneret) on October 30. The event was organized by the Mediterranean People coalition, environmental groups, local authorities, and thousands of volunteers. The goal is to raise awareness of the importance of cleaning the environment and beaches and to influence decision-makers concerning establishing additional marine reserves, banning plastic at beaches, and enforcement. Local authorities have continued working throughout the coronavirus crisis to keep beaches clean along the Kinneret. Every year, about eight million tons of plastic are thrown into the world's seas and oceans

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)

8. ANTI-SEMITISM UPDATES:

Anti-Semitism has been increasing globally for more than a decade, largely because of its propagation online. In the first eight months of 2020, 1.7 million anti-Semitic posts appeared on Twitter and YouTube alone. In the online world, increasing numbers of the world's youth are lured into dangerous virtual neighbourhoods where they are vulnerable to poisonous influences and can be lost to violent radicalization. A recent European study found that radicalization to the point of violence is accomplished much more quickly on the Internet than through face-to-face interaction. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo hosted a conference on combating online anti-Semitism this week (October 21-22), titled "Ancient Hatred, Modern Medium." Many of the conclusions and recommendations that emerged from the conference will be equally applicable to other forms of online hate and will serve as tools in the broader cause of defending human dignity and religious freedom everywhere.

On June 30, 2020, the European Commission updated the details about grants to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) authorized in 2019. In that year, the EU authorized 32 grants totaling 30.1 million euros for projects listed under "Palestine" and an additional 9 grants totaling 3.3 million euros for projects listed under "Israel." At least 3 grants totaling 5.8 million euros involve Palestinian NGOs with ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), an EU-designated terrorist group. Seven grants totaling 6 million euros went to Palestinian NGOs that promote hateful anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and/or glorify terror.

A New American Ideology Has Dangerous Implications for Jews *(by Bari Weiss in the Tablet)*

A new American ideology has attained cultural dominance, capturing America's elites and our most powerful institutions. For Jews, an ideology that contends that there are no meaningful differences between cultures is not simply ridiculous - we have an obviously distinct history, tradition and religion that has been the source of both enormous tragedy as well as boundless gifts - but is also, as history has shown, lethal.

In this new ideology, the things about us that make us different must be demonized, so that they can be erased or destroyed: Zionism is refashioned as colonialism; Jewish businesses can be looted because Jews "are the face of capital." Jews are flattened into "white people," our history obliterated, so that someone can suggest that the Holocaust was merely "white on white crime." This ideology has taken over universities, publishing houses, the media, museums and is now making quick work of corporate America.

It does not matter how progressive you are. To believe in the justness of the existence of the Jewish state - to believe in Jewish particularism at all - is to make yourself an enemy of this movement. Jews who refuse to erase what makes us different will increasingly be defined as racists. The writer is a former opinion editor and writer at the New York Times.

Chomsky, Waters, Demand Banning Canadian Jewish Schools' Salute to IDF Events, Calling Them 'Recruitment'

An open letter signed by Noam Chomsky, Roger Waters, Ken Loach, former MP Jim Manly, poet El Jones, author Yann Martel, and more than 170 Canadians, was delivered this week to Canadian Justice Minister David Lametti asking him to investigate recruitment taking place in Canada for the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). The authors of the open letter also launched a formal legal complaint with the Justice Minister, since it's a crime in Canada to recruit anyone for a foreign military. A website close to the petition and the complaint listed the offenses carried out by Jewish schools in Canada in violation of the country's Foreign Enlistment Act. (**Editor's comment:** *take a look at the ridiculous accusations below.*)

- Netivot HaTorah Day School last January posted on its Facebook page that its "donut day" initiative raised more than \$750 for Gar'in Chayalim, a program that supports IDF lone soldiers."

- Bialik Hebrew Day School states on its website: “Tzedakah programs such as Shai Le’chayal help students feel a sense of responsibility to the Israeli community by sending gifts to Israeli soldiers. Similarly, having the opportunity to interact with IDF [entertainment] Band soldiers, who visit to perform for the school, reinforces these feelings.”
- The Toronto Heschel School invited the IDF Nachal Band to play there last September.
- Families affiliated with the Leo Baeck Day School hosted Israeli teens for a year before they enlisted in the IDF. When they returned to Israel, they engaged with students over Skype.
- Leo Baeck students also pay tribute to Israel’s fallen heroes and fundraise for Beit Halochem Canada/Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel.
- The IDF Orchestra performed in several Canadian Jewish schools.
- Leo Baeck’s alumni magazine advertised the Judy Shaviv Memorial Fund “Keren Yad Yehudit” which assists graduates to spend time in Israel in the IDF, in study programs, or as volunteers. The high school celebrates its graduates who have served in the IDF, inviting them to share their experiences with the students.
- The Israeli Consulate General in Toronto in May 2019 sent IDF Colonel Barak Hiram to speak to high school students, telling them about “being a new recruit and a seasoned commander in the Golani Brigade.”
- Some of the Jewish high school teachers’ biographies state that they served in the Israeli military.
- Bnei Akiva honors alumni who served in the IDF on its website.

“The law banning foreign recruitment must be enforced”, said Montreal lawyer John Philpot, a signatory of the open letter and legal opinion. “Canada must pursue the possibility of laying charges on those encouraging people in Canada to enlist in the Israeli military.”

Turn Jews living in exile to You for answers – and not to their governments (Psa. 121:1-8). Turn Jews living in exile away from drinking the polluted waters of Babylon, and give them a deep desire to return to their biblical homeland (Psa. 137:1-6). Remove the fear of coming home and replace it with excitement and a love for Zion (Psa. 9:11, 14). Replace all fears of moving to Israel with a deep love and a healthy fear of You instead (Deut. 13:4). Lord, may Western Jews come to preserve their life – and not necessarily their lifestyle. Thank You for watching over Isaiah 43:5-6 and setting Your people free to return to Israel from all four corners of the earth – and doing it all for Your glory (Isa. 43:7, 21). It is exciting to hear that today many of the younger generation are returning to prepare the way for their elders. Watch over their plans and make them very fruitful (Isa. 27:6; 37:31). Stir the government, as one of its top priorities, to provide everything that is needed to help Jews come home and be settled (Jer. 23:3-4).

“For a small moment have I forsaken you; but with great mercies I will gather you. In a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you, says YHWH your Redeemer.” (Isaiah 54:7-8)

9. IRAN UPDATES:

The termination of the arms embargo on Iran last Sunday (Oct 18) will allow Iran to purchase and export arms without restrictions. Iran is likely to quickly pursue advanced weapons, particularly from Russia and China, with an emphasis on air defense systems, such as the Russian S-400, to improve the defense of Iranian nuclear facilities. Iran will also seek components that will enhance the performance of its missiles that are expected to carry nuclear weapons in the future.

Following the end of the UN embargo on Iran buying or selling weapons, the military component of a 25-year deal between China and Iran may now feature the deployment in Iran of North Korean weaponry and technology, in exchange for oil. This would include Hwasong-12 mobile ballistic missiles, with a range of 4,500 km., and the development of liquid propellant rocket engines suitable for intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

The UN arms embargo on Iran expired after 13 years on Sunday, as the signatories of the Iran Deal refused to cooperate with USA efforts to extend it. In light of the USA triggering “snapback sanctions” meant to stop the restrictions on Iran from expiring, virtually all UN sanctions on Iran returned, including reimposition of the UN arms embargo. However, the other parties to the Iran deal did not accept the American move as valid.

The Iranian Islamic regime has announced it is beginning a massive air defense drill across half of Iran’s airspace this week. Set to start on Wednesday (Oct 28), the drill follows the expiration on October 18 of the ten-year long UN arms embargo on Iran, and renewed Iranian interest in upgrading its military and defense technology. The purpose of the drill is “improving the combat readiness and increasing the air defense capability of the Armed Forces and is one of the goals of holding a joint specialized air defense exercise for the 99th Sky Defenders of the provinces,” according to Iranian officials. The Middle East is watching closely to see how Iran will attempt to influence the ongoing dispute/war between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Mohammad Reza Naqdi, commander of coordination in the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, said in a TV interview last week: "We are closer to the Zionists' [borders] than you can imagine. When the day comes, you will see how suddenly everything they have will fall apart. Thank God, both the Americans and the Zionists in the region are surrounded by fighters of Islam. As [Khamenei] said, Tel Aviv and Haifa will be turned to ashes, [and] we will liberate Jerusalem....The result surely will be the liberation of Palestine. Everything is ready; the forces are ready and trained, and they are sufficiently armed. There is a mighty potential both within Palestine, and outside it."

The Iranian rial has fallen to a new low against the USA dollar. On Oct. 19, on the black market, \$1 is worth about 316,000-319,000 rials. The currency has lost nearly 60% of its value in 2020 as a drop in oil prices has deepened the economic crisis in a country which has the highest Covid-19 death toll in the Middle East.

An exiled Iranian dissident group says Iran has developed a new nuclear bomb-making facility. The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), a French- and Albanian-based group working to overthrow the Iranian regime, said last Friday it has learned that there is a new facility in Sorkheh-Hesar in northeast Iran. The NCRI says that this newest facility is focused on nuclear testing, conducting preliminary explosions to build nuclear weapons and record results by seismometers; this site will lead to Iran’s obtaining the final capabilities it needs to develop a nuclear weapon.

As Iran has been hit hard by Covid-19 – with massive deaths – Lord, use this mismanagement to stir the people up against their leaders (Jer. 49:35-37; note: ancient Elam is modern Iran today.) Seize the sceptre of authority out of the Iranian leadership's blood-stained grip (Jer. 49:38b). Bring massive confusion between Iran's scientists and its military leaders (Psa. 35:4; 70:2). Set the Iranian people free and re-establish the warm relations Israel had with Iran before the rise of the Ayatollah's Islamic regime in the late 1970s (Psa. 12:5). Anoint the Iranian Church to move in power, signs and wonders (Acts 14:3). Quicken them to have the answer to all who ask them why they have peace and hope (1 Pet. 3:15). Lord, move Russian President Putin's heart to become extremely cautious and ill-at-ease when he deals with Iran and Turkey (Psa. 55:21; Prov. 21:1).

“No weapon formed against you shall prosper; and every tongue that rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of YHWH's servants, and their righteousness is of Me, says YHWH.” (Isaiah 54:17)

10. ISRAEL GOOD NEWS ITEMS:

‘Transparency International’, which combats corruption worldwide, has, for the second successive year, ranked Israel in its top category for enforcement against corruption in international transactions.

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) announced in September a new joint venture with Australian logistics and materials company Bis Industries to convert existing trucks and bulldozers to work autonomously at mining sites. IAI's subsidiary, Elta, has been developing autonomous off-road vehicles for 15 years.

The Israeli government has approved the development of two plots for tourism complexes in the Negev, one in Be'er Sheva River Park, and the other in Mitzpe Ramon, further south. The plan for the park calls for the establishment of an overnight parking lot (camping) that will include about 250 beds, as well as related sports and leisure facilities. In Mitzpe Ramon, a plan has been approved for the construction of a hotel that will include 70 accommodation units located in the urban area of Mitzpe Ramon. This, in line with the urban planning trend, which is based on the principle of integrating tourism and hotels within residential areas. The Israel Ministry of Tourism is continuing to develop tourism infrastructure and strengthen existing infrastructure, in preparation for tourism that will return in due course despite the global economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Around the world, the promise of hydrogen power, harvested by separating and reuniting the elements that make up water, is sparking the next revolution in clean energy. The technology is still in its infancy, but both the government and private sector are pumping money into developing ways to make hydrogen use more powerful, efficient, and cost-effective. The Far East, Europe, and parts of the US are investing billions into creating a hydrogen infrastructure that will power trucking, heavy industry, and even homes. Tiny Israel neither builds vehicles nor has much heavy industry. Furthermore, the Energy Ministry is focused on replacing coal with less-polluting natural gas and on shoring up the infrastructure needed to reach its target of generating 30 percent of the nation's energy through renewable sources, mainly solar, by 2030.

The international convention center in Jerusalem known as Binyanei Ha'Uma is about to get a facelift, and a new name: the expanded international convention center complex is to be named for the late President Shimon Peres. The International Congress Center will ultimately be known as "Buildings of the Nation" – a massive \$500 million complex comprised of nine skyscrapers and 15 ten-story buildings that will take at least a decade to build and sprawl over some 55,000 meters of land. The Jewish Agency for Israel, which originally sponsored the construction of the conference center complex in the 1950s to host the Zionist Congress, was also responsible for the motion to upgrade and expand the complex.

The Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index rated Israel's pension system 74.7 out of 100, giving it a B grade and placing it third out of the 39 countries surveyed. This was Israel's first year being included on the 12-year-old index. The two countries that placed ahead of Israel, the Netherlands and Denmark, were the only two given an A grade, and are already widely regarded as having the best pension systems in the world. For comparison, the USA and UK both were graded C+. More than half of the countries on the list saw their ratings drop this year as global economies contend with the economic fallout from the COVID-19 crisis. Broken down, Israel's pension system ranked fourth for sustainability, seventh for integrity, and 12th for adequacy.

GPS-jamming techniques have been used against Israeli forces in various arenas, including by a foreign power operating in Syria. In response, Israeli defense contractor Rafael was asked by the IDF to develop a battlefield navigation system for armored vehicles that does not rely on GPS. The solution, 'CT-MENTOR', involves a series of cameras installed on combat vehicles that scan the surroundings, creating a 3D image. This image is then combined with previous aerial photos and satellite images, enabling the system to determine the vehicle's exact location to within five meters.

Airbus, the European aerospace and defense conglomerate, will work with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) to operate its Heron medium-altitude long-endurance, remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) to spot migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. The EU has awarded Israel's Elbit Systems a separate contract for identical services using its Hermes drones. The drones will be based in Greece, Italy or Malta.

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)