

**‘Memory is the only (place) from which you cannot be expelled’**

# **Israel News Faxx**

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*Welcome to the Israel News Faxx Weekly Edition*

*For Sept. 4, 2017– Sept. 9, 2017*

*incorporating news, features and opinion*

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## *'If Attacked, War Won't be Limited to Our Borders'*

By Reuters

Enemies are unlikely to attack Iran, especially on the ground, the country's military chief predicted, saying even "unwise" leaders in the West know that any such conflict would have huge costs for them.

President Donald Trump, adopting an aggressive posture towards Iran after its test launch of a ballistic missile, said in February that "nothing is off the table" in dealing with Tehran, and the White House said it was putting Iran "on notice."

"In the remote case of an aggression (by enemies), this won't be on the ground because they would face brave warriors," Iran's semi-official news agency Tazim quoted military chief of staff General Mohammad Baqeri as saying.

"Thank God, even the unwise who lead world arrogance (the West) ... can conclude that attacking the Islamic Republic would entail heavy costs," Baqeri said at an air defense exhibition. "Even if they would control the start of an aggression, they would not have a say about its end and they won't even be able to limit the war to Iran's borders."

## *PA Fumes Over New Plan to Bolster Jewish Community in Hebron*

By Israel Hayom

The Palestinian Authority warned that a recent decision by Israel to set up a municipal administration to oversee the needs of the Jewish community in Hebron was a "destructive move."

According to Channel 2 News, GOC Central Command Maj. Gen. Roni Noma on Thursday signed an administrative order allowing the community's administrative council to form a municipal services directorate that would make decisions on social, educational and health issues independently of Hebron's municipality, which is run by the Palestinian Authority.

But the move, intended to improve the daily lives of the Jewish residents of the city sparked the Palestinian Authority's outrage, as it claimed it was a violation of the status quo in the city. Fatah officials labeled the move "racist," "destructive" and "very dangerous," warning it could bring about "the collapse of all agreements."

An official Fatah statement quoted by Channel 2 News said the move was "the implementation of apartheid policy and an attempt to Judaize the Old City [of Hebron]. This is a preliminary step to imposing Israeli sovereignty and preventing any diplomatic solution in the region."

Hebron Governor Kamal Hamid warned the move could "lead to chaos and threaten stability in the region." Speaking with the Voice of Palestine radio station on Saturday Hamid said, "This is [Israel's] most dangerous move since 1967. ... It contradicts the entire peace process and the efforts to establish a Palestinian state."

The Palestinian Authority urged the international community to force Israel to reverse the decision. Fatah spokesman Osama al-Qawasmii called for immediate legal and diplomatic action by the international community so as "to prevent steps that violate international law and written agreements." Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat also urged the international community to prevent the move, which he called "an implementation of the Israeli plan for the annexation of Palestinian territories. This is a systematic violation of the law."

The Defense Ministry said Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman supported the move and had, in fact, instructed Numa to issue the directive. The future municipal directorate will allow for a significant improvement in municipal services afforded to the residents of the Jewish community in Hebron, the statement said, adding that it will allow the community to operate independently of the Hebron Municipality, as is the case in some local councils across Israel.

## *Jailed Soldier Uses Prison's Synagogue Roof as an Escape Route*

By IsraelNationalNews.com

An IDF soldier serving time in a military prison escaped last week, after he climbed to the roof of a synagogue in the prison complex. The prisoner, who was convicted of desertion, had been sentenced to be jailed in Prison Four, an army jail inside the Triffin base in central Israel. The man made his escape by climbing to the roof of a synagogue in the complex, and from there jumped to the roof of another building close to the prison fence. The soldier then was able to climb over the fence – and make his escape to the city of Rishon Letzion.

Authorities were alerted to the prisoner's escape and deployed military police and local police officers to apprehend the escapee. After a four-hour search, the prisoner was located and captured. The prisoner claims that during his arrest, military police officers beat him after he was already handcuffed. Army officials are investigating the claim.

"Last Thursday, a deserter escaped from the detention center at the Tzrifin army base," an army spokesperson said. "The IDF and Israel Police captured the deserter shortly after his escape. Claims that the force was used against the deserter as he resisted arrest are being investigated. The overall incident [including the escape itself] will be investigated and the proper actions taken."

## *Target Apologizes for Cancelling Orders*

By JTA

U.S. retail chain Target apologized for cancelling orders to Israel after it was overwhelmed by orders following a promotion of free delivery by a third-party shipping company. Target said it was overwhelmed by the high demand of Israeli consumers after the Borderfree shipping company offered free shipping to Israel on orders made Aug. 18-20. The orders were to be delivered by DHL.

"Due to the much higher than anticipated response to the Borderfree Free Shipping promotion, we are unable to deliver order [number] and had to cancel it. We apologize for this inconvenience," read the letter sent last week to many Israeli customers. An estimated 20,000 orders were placed during the three-day promotion, according to reports. DHL told Haaretz that it delivered a few thousand packages, and that those are the only ones Israeli customers received.

The Israeli business daily Globes reported Sunday that many of the orders faced customs issues, since there are limits on the quantity of items, the kinds of food items and the amount of money that can be spent on such orders from outside of the country.



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## ***IDF Holds Largest Exercise in 20 Years to Prepare for Imminent Hizbullah Threat***

*By The Jerusalem Post*

Amid rising tensions on Israel's northern border, the IDF launched Monday evening its largest drill in close to 20 years, with tens of thousands of soldiers from all branches of the army simulating a war with Hizbullah. The drill is unique and unprecedented in scope, the army has affirmed, and it will enable forces to maintain a high level of readiness in an ever-changing region.

According to military assessments, while it is unlikely that Hizbullah will attack Israel soon, the northern border remains the most explosive and both sides have warned that the next conflict between the two would be devastating.

The IDF is preparing itself for a different kind of war on the northern front. According to the military, while the drill itself is set to focus only on the border with Lebanon, a potential future altercation would not be contained only in the part of the border and would spread to the entirety of the northern border.

While the primary threat posed by Hizbullah remains its missile arsenal, the IDF believes that the next war will see the terror group trying to bring the fight into the home front by infiltrating into Israeli communities to inflict significant civilian and military casualties.

The two-week long drill will focus on countering the increased capabilities of Hizbullah and is expected to include simulations of evacuating communities which sit on the border with Lebanon. During the drill, soldiers will play the role of civilians being evacuated, but with close to 1 million Israelis living in Israel's north, an estimated quarter million would be evacuated in case a war breaks out with the Shiite Lebanese terror group.

Named after Meir Dagan, the former head of the Mossad, the exercise will see thousands of reservists and all the different branches of the IDF- Air Force, Navy, Ground Forces Intelligence, Cyber- drilling their ability to work side by side in case such a war should break out. To secure the exercise but also simulate what it would be like in case of a real war, no soldiers will be allowed to bring in their phones or any other digital devices.

Hizbullah has rebuilt its arsenal since the last war against Israel back in 2006, with at least 100,000 short-range rockets and several thousand more missiles that can reach central Israel. According to some Israeli analysts, the next war with Hizbullah might see 1,500-2,000 rockets shot into Israel per day, compared to the 150-180 per day during the Second Lebanon war 10 years ago in which 121 soldiers and 44 civilians were killed and over 2,000 injured.

In addition to having rebuilt their arsenal, Hizbullah has changed from a terror group fighting guerilla style targets to an army with battalions, brigades and over 40,000 fighters who have gained immeasurable battlefield experience from fighting in Syria on the side of President Bashar al-Assad.

But while the threat still looms large, Israel has made it clear that it will continue to work to prevent the group from acquiring advanced weaponry, striking weapons convoys in Syria destined for the group at least 100 times in the past five years.

## ***Israel Demands Strong Action Against North Korea After Nuclear Test***

*By World Israel News*

Israel has condemned North Korea for its H-bomb test and called on the international community to take decisive action against Pyongyang. Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday issued a sharp condemnation of North Korea's testing of a hydrogen bomb the previous day – its sixth nuclear test. "The State of Israel condemns the recent nuclear test conducted by North Korea. The test is a continuation of North Korea's pattern of defiant activity," the statement said.

Israel said that North Korea must comply with all Security Council resolutions on this issue and "refrain from testing and developing weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. Only a determined international response will prevent other states from behaving in the same way," the statement said.

Israel is closely monitoring the developing crisis between North Korea and the US and its allies, as its outcome can affect Israel's security challenges. The failed nuclear deal between the US and North Korea was perceived as a model of successful diplomacy after which the nuclear deal with Iran was modeled.

The international community's response to Pyongyang's will significantly affect how Tehran conducts itself in the future, as Israel fears that it is attempting to secretly develop nuclear weapons while outwardly abiding by the terms of the nuclear accord. Israel also fears that a weak response against North Korea will embolden Iran to pursue its quest for weapons of mass destruction.

Similarly, a senior Israeli military official told reporters at a special briefing in April that rising tensions with North Korea may push the US to divert security resources from the Middle East to the Korean peninsula, which would have repercussions for Israel and the threats it is encountering in the region.

## ***Powers May End Up with Iranian Model for North Korea***

*By DEBKAFfile (Analysis)*

Even North Korea's 150-kiloton hydrogen bomb and avowed ability to fit it onto an intercontinental ballistic missile, as Kim Jong-un demonstrated Sunday, Sept. 3, have so far drawn nothing more decisive from the world's powers than words of condemnation and threats of stronger sanctions.

President Donald Trump called North Korea a rogue state whose words and actions were "hostile and dangerous to the United States" and convened a meeting with his national security team. Yet stronger sanctions are on the table, including stopping trade with countries doing business with North Korea.

Japan's Shinzo Abe, already rattled by the North Korean missile that flew over his country, said the latest nuclear test, the most powerful thus far, "is completely unacceptable and we must lodge a strong protest."

South Korea said that its northern neighbor's defiant sixth nuclear test should be met with the "strongest possible" response, including new UN Security Council sanctions to "completely isolate" the country.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed Sunday to "appropriately deal with" the latest nuclear test by North Korea. The state news agency Xinhua said, "The two leaders agreed to stick to the goal of denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula and keep close communication and coordination to deal with the new situation." But still, there is no sign of all these powers getting together for tangible, effective concerted action.

Since the Kim regime's first underground nuclear test on Oct. 9, 2006, almost every conceivable penalty and deterrent has been tried to rein in the rogue nation's gallop towards a nuclear weapon, barring full-blown military aggression.

None worked, mainly because they were imposed piecemeal and never fully followed through. But most of all, this was because the big powers never lined up as one and pooled all their resources at the same time for concerted action. Sanctions were never comprehensive and so were never a solution.

The only time military action was applied against a North Korean nuclear facility was on Sept. 6, 2007 when the Israeli Air Force and special forces blew up the plutonium reactor under construction by North Korea in the eastern Syrian province of Deir ez-Zour, in Operation Orchard. This plant was intended to be Iran's main supplier of plutonium and had it been finished, would have accelerated Tehran's advance towards a hydrogen bomb.

The Israeli example has long been set aside, mainly since it was overtaken by Obama's pro-Iran policy. Successive governments led by Binyamin Netanyahu also set this precedent aside over heavy resistance among Israel's politicians and some of its generals to an attack on Iran's nuclear program before it matured.

North Korea's latest nuclear test was estimated by experts to be five times more powerful than the WWII bomb which destroyed Nagasaki. The Vienna-based Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty said it was evidence that Pyongyang's nuclear program is "advancing rapidly."

The leading world powers' only real weapon against this advance is unity. But because this is so elusive -- and a military attack is seen as a bad option - their governments are apparently moving towards getting reconciled to living with a nuclear-armed Kim regime.

Against Iran, six world powers (the US, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany), did team up and so could negotiate the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran, which left its weapons and missile programs intact although relatively free of effective oversight.

Against Iran, six world powers (the US, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany), did team up and so could negotiate the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran, which left its weapons and missile programs intact although relatively free of effective oversight.

If a similar lineup confronted Kim Jong-un with a collective seven-day ultimatum to dismantle those programs or else face their destruction, he might decide to sit down and talk. As things stand today, he is free to shoot ballistic missiles over Japan and detonate a hydrogen bomb like a child's firecrackers, while the world begs him on bended knee to come and discuss freezing his belligerent programs on the Iranian model.

The North Korean leader will want much more than the deal won by Tehran, for a 10-year moratorium against a \$150 billion pledge and many other rewards. Kim, whose arsenal is far more advanced, will certainly go a lot higher. His leverage for extortion is unassailable. He can either bargain for a mountain of cash or carry on looming over his Pacific neighbors and the United States, armed with advanced ballistic missiles and a nuclear bomb.

He would then be faithful to the legacy of his father Kim Jong-Il, who declared in 1995 that a nuclear program was the only guarantee of his dynasty's survival. Attempts to starve his country and force the regime into submission have fallen short. Even South Korea does not dare stop sending aid to allay its compatriots' endemic famine. For now, both Iran and North Korea, long in cahoots on their weapons programs, are riding high.

## *Holocaust Survivor's Widow Donates \$22 Million to German Zoo*

*By JTA*

A millionaire widow from New Jersey has pledged to donate at least \$22 million to the zoo in Cologne, Germany in memory of her Jewish husband, a Holocaust survivor.

Elizabeth Reichert, 93, was born in Cologne and met her husband, Arnulf, also a Cologne native, during World War II while he was hiding from the Nazis and she was working with the German underground resistance.

The couple married a year after the war ended and then lived for five years in Israel before leaving for New Jersey, where they ran a pet shop. The couple never had children, the English-language website of the German newspaper Deutsche Welle reported on Friday.

Prior to Arnulf Reichert's death in 1998, the couple decided to leave their fortune to the zoo. "It meant a lot to my husband," Reichert told ABC News. "That was his wish — that whatever we have when we pass away should be donated to the zoo of Cologne. Cologne is our hometown. We have no children. Our children are the zoo," she said.

In 1954, the couple gave the zoo a soft-shelled turtle they brought from the Jordan River on a nine-day journey by boat. In recent months, Reichert reportedly set up a foundation to which she donated \$22 million that will invest the money and pay out a regular income to the zoo, in perpetuity.

The zoo's chief financial officer reportedly thought he was being scammed when Reichert's lawyer first contacted him. Now the zoo is planning to enlarge and improve the animal enclosures and make the surroundings more pleasant for its guests. The zoo said it is planning to name its South American section after Arnulf Reichert.

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## Israel's Weapons of the Future: Unmanned Tanks and Mini-Submarines

By DEBKAFfile & IsraelNationalNews.com

"The tank will no longer be the tank we once knew," said Brig. Gen. (res.) Dr. Danny Gold, head of the Administration for the Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure (MAFAT) at the Defense Ministry Tuesday, when he presented a dizzying array of work in progress, altogether 1,500 projects, many in partnership with other friendly countries.

Some examples: Facial recognition technology on video, various types of drones, and Israeli satellites. Then there is the APC of the future, which will be light, small, agile and lethal. An electro-optical gadget for an assault rifle dramatically improves accurate fire. A miniature unmanned submarine for reconnaissance and mapping dives and moves rapidly in any direction. An unmanned submarine conducts secret missions autonomously.

Gold, who is known as the "father of the Iron Dome" missile defense system, described MAFAT as having 25 departments and employing about 500 IDF officers and civilians. It works with 41 national security centers in the defense industries. "We work today with many new technologies which are also being developed in the civilian market. If we can have a driverless car, then we can develop an unmanned tank which will meet all our operational needs virtually without any danger to human life. We can also [develop] an

If the new technologies are too expensive to develop, MAFAT can sell it abroad, he said. Gold could not reveal specific details, but MAFAT enjoys broad cooperation with many friendly countries around the world. MAFAT has extensive cooperation with the US in the areas of missile defense and anti-tunnel technologies. It cooperates with many national projects in the US. Many of the best scientific minds in Israel participate in this cooperation. About 200 workers are employed in industries but work for the Defense Ministry in accordance with the multi-year work plans that MAFAT sets for them.

The APC of the future: the 'Carmel.' One of the current projects is a multi-year plan for developing the technological infrastructure of the armored vehicle, which will constitute a quantum leap in many areas. It will be light, small, agile, lethal, simple to operate, and relatively inexpensive.

The first stage of the development plan is proof of the feasibility of only two soldiers operating the radar. Breakthrough technologies are being developed on a global scale as part of the project, including a hybrid engine. The Carmel is being developed by MAFAT together with the Merkava Project Administration and the Tank Program Administration (MANTAK) at the Defense Ministry, as well as leading defense industries.

DUKE light-weight hovercraft: The system is being developed by an Israeli start-up company funded by the Defense Ministry. The project aims to use a drone to shoot snipers, creating a surprise on the battlefield and preventing IDF forces from walking into dangerous situations. The development stage had to overcome complex technological challenges, including the drone's ability to stabilize and stay airborne, remote fire accuracy, and operational safety. The system is in advanced stages of development and will be tested in the coming year.

First-generation' SMASH: An electro-optical system applied to an assault rifle which dramatically improves the odds of accurate fire in all shooting situations and scenarios. The soldier holds the trigger but the rifle fires only when the target appears in the center of the sights. In experiments conducted to date, the use of the system significantly increased the percentage of hits on targets and reduced the impact on those who were not involved in hostilities. The system does not fire itself but merely blocks or allows fire, and is subject to the soldier's control. The system is expected to be used extensively by the infantry and ground forces.

'Green Oceanodroma': An unmanned helicopter designed to carry and transport heavy loads. The Defense Ministry held a competition to design a drone which could carry up to 150 liters (40 gallons) or 60 kilograms (132 pounds) a distance of eight kilometers (five miles) and back.

A private company (the same company which developed the DUKE) produced an unmanned helicopter capable of reaching speeds of up to 150 kilometers per hour (93 mph), carrying a weight of up to 180 kg (400 lbs.), capable of conducting long logistical missions thanks to its specially designed engine.

Another aircraft introduced in the competition is an Aeronautics drone. The drone, which reaches a top speed of 75 kph (46 mph), uses an engine and batteries based on hybrid propulsion. It can carry up to 90 kg (200 lb.), and is suitable for tactical missions involving low-altitude flight with dedicated cargo. MAFAT will consider how to continue developing and using the drone.

A miniature unmanned submarine for reconnaissance and mapping missions, developed in Israel in cooperation with the Ben Gurion University of the Negev: The submarine is characterized by its ability to dive rapidly and almost vertically. It surpasses comparable submarines with its ability to float and move in any direction.

The 'Kironon': An autonomous submarine for secret missions. It is a unique unmanned vehicle in the world of intelligence operations, and is at the cutting edge of global technology.

## High School Seniors Threaten Freshmen in ISIS-Inspired Video

By Israel Hayom

Seniors at a prestigious central Israel high school filmed and distributed an Islamic State-inspired video to scare freshmen ahead of the new school year that started on Sept. 1. The seniors also sprayed graffiti on school walls and committed acts of vandalism on school grounds, prompting the principal to involve the police and suspend the students involved until further notice.

The clip opens with music in Arabic, taken from one of the Islamic State group's propaganda videos. The students are seen wearing masks and veils, riding on a tractor and gesturing signs of victory with their hands. Later, the students are seen stepping through tires in a sort of boot camp obstacle course and filling up water balloons.

The last part of the video shows the group of students standing over another one in an orange shirt, apparently a freshman, kneeling with his head completely covered in a black cloth just like in Islamic State execution videos.

The speaker in the clip calls out to the freshmen, warning them in an Arabic accent that "until you start 10th grade and begin focusing on important subjects and stop being freshmen -- children like him," at which point he gestured to the kneeling student, "will continue to get [water] balloons and blows to the face in the amphitheater and in the bathrooms. You won't be safe anywhere."

Afterward, the seniors yell, "Allahu abkari," (God is great) and physically abuse the kneeling student. In addition to the video, the seniors also scrawled graffiti reading "12th-grade terror," on school walls, destroyed flower pots and overturned trash cans.

The incident sparked a firestorm among students and parents. The principal sent a letter to faculty and parents titled "Islamic State video and nighttime vandalism," which explained that "unfortunately, a video was shot, apparently in humor, but we are handling it with the full severity of the law." The principal stressed that "the students involved in the video have been suspended from the school until further notice. The police have been called in and are investigating the video and vandalism."

The Education Ministry said in a statement that "this behavior is shameful and revolting, and has no place in proper human society. The educational system has no intention to let this slide. Considering the severity of the incident, the students were suspended from the school and summoned to a meeting to clarify the matter, along with their parents.

"In addition, the school has arranged meetings with the students to reaffirm its educational message. The school has also summoned the students involved in making the clip, who have expressed regret for their actions. The school will continue to follow up on the matter to make sure such an incident does not happen again in the future."

## *Mossad to Release Secret Files about Nazi 'Angel of Death' Mengele*

*By The Jerusalem Post and Reuters*

Previously classified Mossad files about the spy agency's unsuccessful attempts to capture notorious Nazi Dr. Josef Mengele will be available to the public later this week. The reports, photographs and maps from the code-named "Meltzer File" about the chase after the so-called 'Angel of Death' are among three volumes put together by the Mossad's history unit about operations to capture Nazi war criminals spanning from 1959 to 1991.

The documents were recently passed on by the Mossad to Yad Vashem; its publishing will mark the first time Israel's intelligence agency is publicly releasing such files, in acknowledgment of the historic importance of their content. The author of the study is Yosef Chen, 81, a Polish-born Holocaust survivor who came to Israel on the "Exodus" ship in 1947 and joined the Mossad in 1976. He spent the last 7 to 8 years working on this book.

One of the documents, viewed by The Jerusalem Post's Hebrew language sister publication Maariv, contains the conclusion of secret cabinet meeting called by then-prime minister Menachem Begin in 1977: "We decided to instruct the Mossad to renew the search for Nazi war criminals, especially Joseph Mengele, with a view to bringing them to trial in Israel. If they cannot be brought to trial -- kill them."

The infamous German doctor is known for carrying out genetic experiments on Auschwitz prisoners, as well as overseeing selecting who would be sent to the gas chambers, resulting in the "Angel of Death" nickname.

According to Israeli daily Yediot Aharonot, the file describes bold hacks, wiretapping and complicated schemes to try and track down Mengele. In one of these operations, Mossad agents believed they had come close to capturing him -- an account that was already known but had never been confirmed by the Mossad. In 1962 Mossad agent Zevi Aharoni and his team located a man in Brazil whom they believed to be Mengele, however, they never received authorization to act. Various reasons are given as to why then-Mossad director Isser Harel decided to suspend the operation at that time, including operational, political and budgetary concerns.

But Chen told the Post on Tuesday that the reason was that the suspected man was seemingly not Mengele. "They saw someone who they thought was him. There was somebody who was more certain it was him and someone else who was less certain and it was not entirely clear if it was him. In any case, you can't do anything upon first sighting. You have to gather all the information and to check all possibilities and then to decide what to do," he said, asserting that this procedure was followed. "Somebody thought it was him and in the end of the day it was seemingly not him," he said, emphasizing the word "seemingly." "But we can't say for sure whether or not it was him. It's correct that he was suspected."

"A lot of years and time and many attempts went into trying to trap Mengele and it's a shame they didn't reach the desired goal," Chen added, though he stressed it was not for want of trying. "All paths lead to Rome. There is no path they didn't try... There was a certain hardship because they didn't know exactly where he was," he said, adding that in hindsight they know he was in Brazil, but most of the search efforts in that area were for Adolf Eichmann, whom the Mossad caught in 1960 in Argentina.

"For Eichmann they had more accurate information. One of the main reasons, I think, was that Mengele protected a rich family -- his family in Germany who knew well where he was and helped him financially and helped him find cover and gave excellent financial [backing] to those who helped him hide, and that helped him a lot. But to our happiness we know he lived like a dog being hunted -- he was hiding for dozens of years in fear that he would be found," Chen said.

Other plots detailed in the book, as reported by Yediot Aharonot, involved attempts in 1983 to trace Mengele via his son Rolf, who was living in West Berlin. One plan was to listen to an anticipated phone call between the father and son of their shared birthday. Another involved a honey trap. But neither plan worked since Mengele had died four years earlier.

Chen spoke of the "great lengths" that were gone through to chase after Nazi war criminals, however, it appears the Mossad had comparatively few victories. Without wishing to use the term "failure" when questioned about this, Chen says "in every case where the objective is not accomplished, that is not a success -- and the goal was not achieved, at least not with Mengele. With Eichmann, it was... Of course, there were more [Nazi war criminals] but Israel could not run after all of them."

Though Chen was surprised on Tuesday morning to discover that excerpts of the documents were published in newspapers, he is glad about the move. "I definitely think the people of Israel needs to know and learn this story well in the most accurate way - and what I published is the most accurate publication about the hunt for Nazi war criminals."

Yad Vashem officials also welcomed the decision to hand over the papers. "This important report, based on archival documents, will be made available over the coming days, to researchers and the public both online and in our Library," Dr. Haim Gertner, Director of Yad Vashem's Archives Division and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation said in a statement. "The Yad Vashem Archives, consisting of over 200 million pages of documentation, has and continues to be a valuable source of information on Nazi criminals and serves as a basis for locating criminals and bringing them to justice even today."

Much of Mengele's life remains a mystery. After the fall of Hitler, Mengele reportedly fled to Buenos Aires where he is believed to have lived for a decade. After Mossad agents closed in on his location, he allegedly traveled to Paraguay and then Brazil.

He drowned off the coast of Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1979, after spending years on the run from Mossad Agents. He was reportedly buried in a Brazilian cemetery under a false name. But investigations soon connected Mengele to his tombstone and an exhumation was ordered to prove his identity.

Mengele's bones are being used by students at Sao Paulo University to gather information on his life fleeing authorities. The bones lay unclaimed at Sao Paulo's morgue -- The Legal Medical Institute -- for years, until forensic doctor Daniel Munoz thought they would be good to use in his university course.



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## ***Netanyahu: Israel's Covert Ties with Arab Nations Reach Unprecedented Level***

*By DEBKAFfile & IsraelNationalNews.com*

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said Wednesday that Israel's growing cooperation with Arab countries has reached a level that "has not happened in our history," calling it a "huge change." He emphasized, however, that the cooperation still cannot be shown openly. Netanyahu made the comments at a gathering at the Foreign Ministry ahead of his departure for a trip to Central and South America.

Despite this shift, however, Netanyahu said most Arab states have yet to expand direct cooperation with Israel. The Prime Minister also singled out the Palestinian Authority, which unlike most of the Sunni Arab world, has remains stuck in the past regarding its attitude towards Israel. "Unfortunately, the Palestinians still haven't changed their terms for a peace agreement, which are totally unacceptable for a large part of the public."

Israel has strengthened its diplomatic position elsewhere, Netanyahu continued, saying Israel's "alliance with the United States is stronger than ever," and said the Jewish state was "developing" a relationship with Eastern European countries.

## ***Hamas Refuses to Allow Red Cross Chief to Meet with Israeli Captives***

*By Israel Hayom*

The head of the International Committee of the Red Cross on Tuesday discussed the fate of two Israeli civilians and the remains of two Israeli soldiers believed to be held by Hamas in a meeting with the leader of the Islamic terrorist group.

Hamas is believed to hold the bodies of Staff Sgt. Oron Shaul and Lt. Hadar Goldin, who were killed in the Gaza Strip in separate battles during Operation Protective Edge in the summer of 2014. Ethiopian Israeli Avera Mengistu and Bedouin Hisham al-Sayed, both suffering from mental health issues, crossed into Gaza voluntarily in 2014 and 2015 and are believed to have been captured by Hamas. A fifth Israeli, Jumaa Abu Ghanima, crossed the border into Gaza in 2016, and his fate remains unknown.

According to the Palestinian news agency Maan, ICRC President Peter Maurer asked Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip Yahya Sinwar to meet Mengistu and Sayed but Sinwar refused to allow it.

A senior Hamas official told Israel Hayom that "Israel knows very well what the price is for any information about the Israelis in Gaza," adding Maurer "heard the movement's firm position" on the issue.

Sinwar has said Hamas will not release any information about the missing Israelis until Israel frees 54 Palestinian security prisoners who were re-arrested after being released in a 2011 prisoner swap.

ICRC spokeswoman Alyona Synenko confirmed that the fate of people detained or missing on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were among the many humanitarian issues discussed Tuesday. "The objective of this visit is to discuss various humanitarian concerns," she said, declining to elaborate on Maurer's discussions with Sinwar. Maurer later described his meeting with Sinwar as "good," saying they discussed issues pertaining to the dire situation of the Palestinian population in Gaza.

## ***ISIS' New Tactic: Poisons***

*By The Jerusalem Post*

ISIS is now campaigning and providing instructions to its "lone wolf" supporters for carrying out terrorist attacks with poisons in crowded malls, International Institute for Counter Terrorism Deputy Director Eitan Azani told a media briefing on Wednesday.

Azani made the comments along with ICT Director Boaz Ganor ahead of the IDC Herzliya institute's conference next week on terrorism. The deputy director described the new tactic as part of a more general trend in which ISIS is upping its push on social media for followers "to carry out jihad on enemy land, which is the opposite" of "when ISIS called for recruits to come" to Syria and Iraq.

The shift represents Isis' acknowledgment that it is near defeat in terms of holding territory and that its best chance to maintain influence is with foreign ISIS-inspired attacks, Azani said.

Ganor explained that ISIS-inspired attacks are situations where "the terrorist says he is with ISIS" and "ISIS takes credit for the attack," but these are both self-serving, false claims. In truth, with ISIS-inspired attacks, the organization provided no direct orders, guidance or planning to the terrorist and did not even know about the attack until it occurred, said Ganor. However, both ISIS and the attacker want to capitalize on connecting to each other.

He explained that part of beating terrorism is identifying how terrorists think. He displayed photographs of terrorists in a wide variety of situations, with the sole unifying factor that "they are all smiling" because they "believe what they did was beneficial and honorable."

Just because ISIS-inspired lone wolves evaluate their costs and benefits differently than most people, does not mean their thinking cannot be diagnosed and, one hopes, used to de-radicalize potential attackers.

Azani said that Western countries have not been smart enough in fighting radicalization in the stage before potential recruits become hardcore jihadists. "The radicalization of attackers in Spain" connected to the recent attacks there "took a long time, but no one noticed they were getting radicalized."



## *Bubbe Lives in the Path of Hurricane Irma. Now What?*

By JTA

Beatrice Marks' one-story home might flood this week. But she laughs off the threat. "It doesn't faze me one bit. Not anymore," said Marks, 86, whose community of seniors lies in the path of Hurricane Irma, which is set to make landfall in Florida at the end of the week. "As far as the actual fear of the hurricane, we all are afraid. But it's a thing we know that can come and go."

Marks, who has lived in Florida for more than 70 years, is an outlier among octogenarians — living alone and driving with barely any assistance in everyday activities. But as a Jewish senior in Florida, she is far from alone.

Long a mecca for Jewish retirees, South Florida has a disproportionate number of Jewish elderly. With thousands of local seniors in their areas, Jewish communal agencies are gearing up to prepare the elderly for Irma, which officials say could be one of the worst hurricanes in decades.

"We've already been getting calls from people who are scared," said Barbara Bailin, director of financial services for Goodman Jewish Family Services of Broward County on Florida's east coast. "A lot of our seniors are in old condominiums. They might be living near the beach in things that are 40 years old, and a lot of people don't want to leave."

Irma, which hit the Caribbean on Wednesday, has been designated a Category 5 storm and has the highest wind speeds recorded since the 1980s. Its current path has it crossing Puerto Rico and Cuba before reaching southern Florida on Sunday morning — just two weeks after Hurricane Harvey devastated the Texas coast.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott has declared a statewide state of emergency, and Jewish groups already are focusing on the state's large population of Jewish seniors. In South Florida, more than a quarter of its population is seniors, according to recent population studies.

Many of those seniors live independently or, like Marks, in a community where some housekeeping is taken care of, but a fraction are dependent on Jewish organizations for meals on wheels, medicine and transportation. Others turn to the agencies when other support runs out or in emergencies like these. Jewish service agencies hope to assist those clients by connecting them with relevant state agencies, helping them stock up on supplies and persuading them to get out of harm's way.

"Everyone's taken a little bit aback by the latest turn of events," said Alec Rosen, vice president of community engagement for Jewish Community Services of South Florida. "We're calling clients, making sure they have adequate food and water."

Rosen's organization delivers more than 100,000 kosher meals annually to 665 homebound seniors, and is ensuring that they have three days' worth of food, water and medication.

And while most local buildings have hurricane protections like shutters and reinforced windows, Bailin's agency will work to persuade seniors living in insecure areas to leave their homes for government-run special needs centers, which will be safe from damage and able to provide the necessities now being cleared from South Florida's supermarket shelves.

Local and state governments provide a share of the assistance, from ensuring buildings are safe to transporting seniors to the evacuation centers. On Wednesday, Miami-Dade County will begin evacuating special-needs residents. But Bailin said getting seniors to go to the shelters isn't easy. "Seniors don't want to leave their homes when they can't take care of themselves anymore," she said. "You hear, 'I've lived here for 40 years and never had a problem.'"

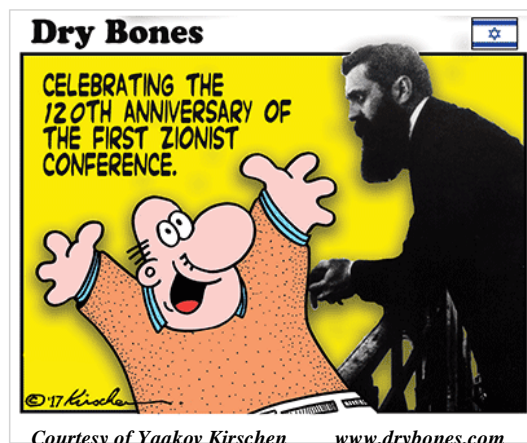
Previous storms — like Hurricane Wilma in 2005 — have taught Bailin to prepare as much for the storm's aftermath as for the lead-up. People often hoard perishable food, she said — a likely power outage will render it useless. Better, she recommended, to buy dry staples that will last. Jewish Family Services also holds off on providing emergency food stipends to clients until the storm passes.

"You've got to stop to realize the worst hurricane comes and goes within three or four days," Marks said. "Why would you stock up on food when your lights are going to go out? You're not going to have refrigeration. You buy crackers, you buy dry food, you've got cereal."

What can distant children and grandchildren do to help? Not much, Bailin says, beyond calling service agencies to confirm that their relatives are located and have all the essentials provided. Florida's Department of Elder Affairs has a hurricane preparedness guide.

And it's important, Bailin said, to make the call now. "Make sure mom and dad have a plan in place," she said. "Encourage them to evacuate where they have emergency services. If they call us at the last minute, they can't do anything then."

Marks doesn't plan to leave her home, but if she does, she will join one of her sons, who both live nearby. But she doubts they'll be able to do much she can't do on her own. "As far as preparation is concerned, there isn't too much we can do about that," she said. "We all have shutters in our home. The water is a menace and always will be, I think."



*The first Zionist Congress was called by Theodor Herzl as a first step in the creation of a Jewish State. Herzl had planned to hold the gathering in Munich, but due to local Jewish opposition he transferred the gathering to Basel, Switzerland. The three-day Congress opened 120 years ago in Basel on August 29, 1897.*

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## Following Airstrike, Syria Files Complaint Against Israel at UN

By YnetNews.com, DEBKAFfile, United with Israel & VOA News

Following the airstrike on Syria's Scientific Studies and Research Center (CERS), which is responsible for research and development of nuclear, biological, chemical and missile technology and weapons for the state, the Syrian Foreign Ministry sent a letter of complaint Thursday to UN Director-General Antonio Guterres and to the president of the UN Security Council, about Israel's "unabated aggression" against it and its support of terrorism. The terrorist organization Hamas also joined in and condemned the overnight attack on Syria, saying in a statement that they are opposed any aggression against any Arab or Muslim country.

Earlier that day, the Syrian army warned Israel of "serious consequences" officially accusing Israel of sending fighter jets to carry out a strike on CERS. "The Syrian army warns of the serious consequences of these kinds of aggressive activities against the security and stability in the region," the statement began. "The army is determined to destroy terrorism and obliterate it in all Syrian territory, and it doesn't matter what kind of aid is given to these terror gangs," it continued in an allusion to what it claims is Israel's active support for the terror group.

The Syrian army accused Israel of launching the strike in an "attempt to raise ISIS' morale, which is collapsing after the crushing victory achieved by the Syrian army against terror," repeating its charge that Israel is in cahoots with the Islamic State. The attack proves Israel is directly supporting ISIS and other terror organizations," stated the Syrian army.

Syrian opposition news media reported early Thursday that Israeli aircraft had struck several Syrian regime targets Wednesday night. One was the proscribed chemical weapons facility in which missiles are also produced.

A UN report published earlier Wednesday determined that Syria had used chemical weapons against rebel-held areas nearly 30 times since the country's civil war began in 2011, including the April attack in Adlib that left almost 90 people dead and hundreds of others wounded. Wednesday was also the 10th anniversary of the Israeli attack which destroyed a Syrian nuclear plant built by North Korea.

Syria warned about "dangerous repercussions" after the Israeli Air Force attacked the chemical weapons development site. The Syrian army stated through SANA, the country's official news agency, that Israeli warplanes fired several rockets from Lebanon's airspace, targeting a Syrian military posts near Massyaf in the Hama countryside, killing two army personnel and causing material damage to the site.

"This aggression comes in a desperate attempt to raise the collapsed morale of the ISIS (Islamic State) terrorists after the sweeping victories achieved by the Syrian Arab Army against terrorism at more than one front, and it affirms the direct support provided by the Israeli entity to the ISIS and other terrorist organizations," the Army Command said in a statement. Syria has long alleged that Israel is secretly collaborating with ISIS in its war in Syria.

Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), said "Many explosions were heard in the area after the air raid," adding that some of the blasts may have been secondary explosions from a missile storage facility being hit. He said Lebanese Hezbollah fighters and Iranian military officials often visit the site.

If confirmed, this would be the first Israeli attack on a Syrian target in years. While Israel has repeatedly attacked Hezbollah weapons shipments and convoys within Syria, it has refrained from striking at Syrian targets which were involved in the terror group's military buildup. Stand by while Iran advances in Syria and establishes itself militarily on Israel's northern border

Syria claims to have handed over all its chemical weapons, as part of an internationally-brokered deal in 2013, but the U.N. accuses Damascus of using chemical weapons on a number of times since. Lebanese media reported that the Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, launching their missiles at the Syrian plant from inside Lebanese territory.

## Five-Year-Old Hareidi Child is Told to Leave School Bus, Stand on Road Alone

By IsraelNationalNews.com

A five-year-old Hareidi student was let off a school bus on a busy road in Beit She mesh. A passing civilian noticed the child standing alone on the road, and asked what had happened. According to the boy, the driver let him off since he was not properly buckled.

According to Kikar Hashabbat, the bus company said the bus chaperone, not the driver, was the one who decided to let the child off. The child, they said "caused problems...and was therefore let off the bus." They also said the driver and chaperone came back some time later and took the boy home. The boy's parents, they claimed, were told about the decision.

In a statement, the bus company said, "The Della transportation company is a professional company which abides by safety rules. In this case, the chaperone ordered the driver to let the children off. Any questions or comments should be directed to the client who ordered the bus, and not to the company itself."

### Dry Bones MR. SHULDIG AND HIS DOG DOOBIE



Courtesy of Yaakov Kirschen [www.drybones.com](http://www.drybones.com)