'Memory is the only (place) from which you cannot be expelled'



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Welcome to the Israel News Faxx Weekly Edition For June 19, 2017– June 22, 2017

incorporating news, features and opinion

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Report: Israel Giving Secret Aid to Syrian Rebels

By IsraelNationalNews.com

Israel has been regularly supplying Syrian rebels near its border with cash as well as food, fuel and medical supplies, The Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday. According to the report, the IDF is in regular communication with rebel groups and its assistance includes undisclosed payments to commanders that help pay salaries of fighters and buy ammunition and weapons, according to interviews with about half a dozen Syrian fighters.

An unidentified source told the newspaper that Israel has established a military unit that oversees the support in Syria, and set aside a specific budget for the aid. Israel has not confirmed the report.

Israel has in the past treated some 3,000 wounded Syrians, many of them fighters, in its hospitals and has provided humanitarian aid such as food and clothing to civilians near the border during winter. But half a dozen rebels and three people familiar with Israel's thinking who spoke to the Wall Street Journal claimed that the country's involvement is much deeper and more coordinated than previously known and entails direct funding of opposition fighters near its border for years.

"Israel stood by our side in a heroic way," said Moatasem al-Golani, spokesman for the rebel group Fursan al-Joulan, or Knights of the Golan. "We wouldn't have survived without Israel's assistance." Israel's aim is to keep Iran-backed fighters allied to the Syrian regime, such as Hizbullah, away from the 45-mile stretch of border on the Golan Heights, the three-people said.

Fursan al-Joulan's commander, who goes by the nickname Abu Suhayb, told The Wall Street Journal that his group gets roughly \$5,000 a month from Israel. It is not linked to the Western-backed Free Syrian Army and doesn't receive Western funding or arms.

The office of Prime Minister referred questions on the issue to the IDF, which didn't respond to requests for comment on whether it was sending cash to or dealing directly with rebel commanders in the Golan region. The IDF only told the newspaper that it was "committed to securing the borders of Israel and preventing the establishment of terror cells and hostile forces ... in addition to providing humanitarian aid to the Syrians living in the area."

Israel has never taken a side in the Syrian civil war, but the regime of Bashar Al-Assad regularly accuses Israel of supporting rebel groups, to which the Syrian regime refers as "terrorists." The Syrian opposition in the past has claimed the exact opposite, that Israel was collaborating with Iran and Hizbullah to keep Assad in power.

Iran Says It Fired Missiles at Terror Bases in Eastern Syria

By VOA News

Iran's Revolutionary Guard says it fired missiles at terrorists based in eastern Syria Sunday, to retaliate for an attack in Tehran earlier this month. The RG said a "large number of terrorists were killed and weapons destroyed" in the strikes on Deir Ezzor province. It said targets included terror headquarters and a car bomb-making facility.

Seventeen people were killed and more than 50 wounded in the June 7 terror attacks on the parliament compound and a shrine to the late Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks, but Shi'ite Iran also is blaming Sunni Saudi Arabia for stirring up violence.

Escalation in S. Syria with Iranian-Led Gains

By DEBKAfile (Analysis

A joint Syrian army-Hizbullah force was unable in two weeks of vicious warfare to break the resistance of the Syrian rebels holding out in Dara and capture the southern Syrian town. On Saturday, June 17, they declared a 48-hour ceasefire until Monday and gave the rebels an ultimatum: Withdraw with your families to Jordan during the pause under a safe conduct guarantee, or else face the resumption of the ferocious hammering by the Syrian army's crack 4th armored division and Hezbollah's al-Qaim commando brigade.

Up until the ceasefire, those forces dropped on the rebels holding out in Daraa 712 barrels from helicopters and fired 450 rockets in 166 air sorties. If the rebels choose to fight on and reject the ultimatum, they will face those Syrian and Hizbullah forces fortified with advanced Russian-made Mi-25 "flying tanks," which can carry even heavier amounts of barrel bombs and armed with anti-tank rockets for striking fortified rebel positions.

Upon receipt of this ultimatum, DEBKA file's military and intelligence sources reported that the rebels holed up in Daraa turned to the Jordanian high command for instructions on whether face up to the coming onslaught or cave in and retreat. The Jordanians referred the query to the US command in Syria and Iraq and it was passed on to Washington. But Sunday afternoon, there was no reply.

Once the rebels abandon Daraa to the Syrian and Hizbullah armies, the battle for the entire region of southern Syria will be lost. Unless they are stopped, those armies will be able to go forward under Iranian direction and capture Quneitra just a few kilometers from Israel's Golan border, after the fall of Daraa brings them right up to the Syrian border with Jordan.

The Iranian-backed Assad-regime's conquest of southern Syria became more tangible than ever on Saturday, after it chalked up another successful military operation: the capture from the Islamic State of the Al-Waleed border crossing on the Iraqi side of the Syrian border. Al-Waleed is close to Al-Tanf, the strategic Syrian border crossing with Iraq, where US and other Western special forces have been based since last year, to block the passage of heavy weaponry from Iran to Syria via the main Baghdad-Damascus highway.

Baghdad announced Saturday that the Iraqi army and Sunni tribal fighters had removed the Islamic State from the al-Waleed border. However, DEBKAfile's sources disclosed that the "Iraqi army" was a euphemism for the Popular Mobilization Units, a militia sponsored by Tehran which was integrated last year in the Iraqi national army.

It therefore turns out that the capture of Al-Waleed not only brought the Syrian-Hizbullah-pro-Iranian force to the vicinity of the US-held Al-Tanf, it also gave Tehran access to the Baghdad-Damascus highway for the transport of heavy equipment including tanks to Syria. Iran has thus acquired its coveted prize, a land bridge to Syria via Iraq.

The US garrison at Al Tanf also conducted certain military moves in southern Syria, mainly the transfer from Jordan of High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS), which have a range of 300km. However, while the Iranian-led Syrian units were constantly on the move in the last two or three weeks, the American force made no attempt to thwart their movements or mount offensives to block their progress. Its commanders, like the Syrian rebels and the Israeli and Jordanian high commands, appear to be standing still until directives are received from Washington.

Jerusalem Police Ramp Up Security, Make Massive Arrests

By DEBKAfile & Israel Hayom

Security was ramped up in and around the Old City of Jerusalem Sunday, two days after an Israeli policewoman Staff Sgt, Hadas Malka was stabbed to death by Palestinian terrorists Friday night. Police rounded up hundreds of Palestinian without permits for entering Israel from the West Bank. The Deir Abu Mash'al village near Ramallah of the three terrorists who carried out the attack Friday remains sealed by the IDF.

Malka, 23, was laid to rest shortly after midnight Sunday in the military cemetery in Ashdod. Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan, Police Commissioner Roni Alsheikh, Border Police Commander Maj. Gen. Yaakov Shabtai, Opposition Leader Isaac Herzog (Zionist Union), Ashdod Mayor Yechiel Lasri and dozens of military and police officials were among the thousands of people who attended the funeral to pay their respects to the young fighter and lend support to the grieving family.

Malka was fatally stabbed when a three-man terrorist cell staged two shooting and stabbing attacks near Damascus Gate in the Old City. She died in hospital shortly after the Three Jewish teenagers were detained for vandalizing the Be'er Sheva War Cemetery, the attack. Another policeman sustained minor shrapnel injuries.

The three terrorists, named as Hamas operative Adel Ankoush, 18, and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine operatives Osama Ata, 19, and Baraa Ata, 18, were killed by security forces.

Israel Police spokeswoman Luba Samri said Malka wrestled with the terrorist as he stabbed her multiple times before other officers saw what was happening and opened fire, killing him. "They [the police] told us Hadas fought a terrorist who tried to snatch her weapon. She was trying to engage and he stabbed her, and then the police nearby shot him. Everyone believes her actions saved the lives of the police and civilians who were there. She was a hero," one of Malka's friends told Israel Hayom.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu issued a statement expressing "profound sadness" over the death of Malka. He also said he was demanding that "the Palestinian Authority denounce this attack," and that he expects other nations to do so as well.

President Reuven Rivlin offered his condolences, saying, "My heart goes out to Hadas' family in this difficult time. I send them a warm embrace of condolences and deeply thank all those who fought valiantly and resolutely to keep the public safe. The heart goes out to the courageous fighter who looks out at us from photos, full of joy and love for the meaningful service she has insisted on undertaking.

"It is the steadfastness of our forces that enables us to continue to live, here in Jerusalem and across the country, a life of security and routine opposite the murderous forces of terrorist organizations. We will pursue all those who help terrorism and we will find them, wherever they may be."

Sgt. Maj. Kevin Benichou, one of the officers who was at the scene of the attack, eulogized Malka on Facebook. "My darling, I want you to know, I want everyone to know, you are a hero. You fought like a lioness out there. I want you to know we settled the score. He paid the ultimate price. Knowing I was out there with you will never leave me. In one moment, you've become an inseparable part of my life," he wrote.

Police Commissioner 'We Won't Turn Jerusalem Into an Armed Fortress'

By IsraelNationalNews.com

Police Commissioner Roni Alsheich toured the area around the Damascus Gate and Zedekiah's Cave - where the terrorist attack in which Border Police officer Hadas Malka was murdered Friday evening - accompanied by the commander of the Jerusalem district, Yoram Halevy and the commanders of the regional forces.

Alsheich arrived at the area of the attack to closely monitor the deployment of the policemen and the soldiers two days after the attack. "The biggest challenge is to bring life back to normal," he said, adding that "as important as upgrading security systems is, it should be combined with the ability to maintain a routine life."

The commissioner said: "Our challenge is to provide service and security without [creating a] contradiction between them. There is no intention of turning Jerusalem into a military fortress that is not pleasant to enter and travel in, both for Israelis and for tourists from all over the world."

In addition, Alsheich visited the Border Police officer who was wounded by shrapnel in the eye during the attack that took place in Zedekiah's Cave in the Hadassah Ein Karem hospital in Jerusalem. The officer recounted the attack to Alsheich and how the soldiers succeeded in neutralizing the terrorists in the end.

Alsheich told the wounded officer that: "We paid a heavy price, but I think the police functioned impressively, as policemen know how to do in every arena. Unfortunately, Jerusalem is a city saturated with friction, when the Border Police are always at the forefront and there is a price for it, and I hope to see you [return to duty] soon."

Three Jewish Teenagers Detained for Vandalizing WWI Be'er Sheva Cemetery

burial site of hundreds of Australian World War I soldiers.



Photograph by Don Canaan (2013)

The youths who were detained are aged 14, 17 and 18, according to Israel Police. It is not known if they had a motive for damaging the Christian cemetery. Several gravestones were toppled in the incident. The cemetery was established after the southern Israeli city was captured by the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade from Turkish troops.

After British troops had tried unsuccessfully for two days to outgun Turkish troops, 800 Australians of the Light Horse Brigade, whose horses had not drunk in 48 hours, were ordered on Oct. 31, 1917 to charge into the firing line of 4,000 entrenched and heavily armed Turks and Germans. The brigade successfully captured the area.



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Israel's Binyamin Netanyahu Warns U.S. Experts Warn ISIS Could Come to Israel Iran: 'Don't Threaten Israel'

By World Israel News

"I have one message to Iran: Don't threaten Israel," Netanyahu stated in response to the latest threat from the Islamic Republic. Addressing his Likud faction at the Knesset, Israel's parliament, on Monday, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu responded to the Top U.S. experts on the group said the officials would be wise to think again. "This is a pattern that latest Iranian threat with that counter-warning.

Iran launched several missiles at Islamic State (ISIS) targets inside Syria the previous day in retaliation for the twin terror attacks carried out by the terror group a couple of weeks earlier. one by one, countries that have been called out have seen bloodshed on their soil." Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said that these missile strikes were "just a warning to deter any further action by the terrorists," adding that ISIS' "regional and transregional supporters" will be "engulfed by its [Iran's] revolutionary wrath and flames of the has long vowed to destroy the Jewish state, they said, and it may finally be following through. fire of its revenge in case they repeat any such devilish and dirty move in future."

In a threat not only to ISIS, but also aimed at countries such as Saudi Arabia, the US and Iran, the statement continued, "IRGC ensures the noble Iranian nation that it will spare no effort to safeguard national security and defeat seditions and anti-security phenomena to the accompaniment of military, disciplinary, intelligence forces." Iranian officials added their own warnings, including a tweet by former senior military officer Gen. Mohsen Rezai, saying, "The bigger slap is yet to come."

According to AP, "Israeli security officials said they were studying the missile strike to see what they could learn about its accuracy and capabilities. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters." Netanyahu said Israeli forces were keeping track of Iran's activities in the region. "We are watching their actions and watching their For their part Israeli officials, including in the Israel Security Agency, or Shin Bet, and words," he asserted. Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman said that "Israel is not worried" and "is prepared for every development... We have no concerns or worries."

Kushner Heading to Mideast for Peace Talks

By VOA News

deal between Israel and the Palestinians. A White House official said the senior aide and son-in-law to President Donald Trump will arrive on Wednesday for meetings in Jerusalem and Ramallah. Jason Greenblatt, Trump's international envoy, arrived on Monday.

The official said Kushner and Greenblatt will hear from Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and their senior advisers. Trump made a personal appeal for peace during a visit to Israel last month. He has cast Middle East peace as the "ultimate deal," putting Kushner and Greenblatt in charge of the charting the course.

In remarks in the Middle East, Trump called on both sides to put aside the "pain and disagreements of the past." But he did not offer any details on how to move forward and avoided issues that have stymied all previous attempts at a peace agreement, including the status of Jerusalem, Israeli settlement construction and the Palestinians' demand for a sovereign nation. Former Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama all tried and failed to achieve a peace deal.

When the Islamic State terror movement claimed credit for an attack on Israeli soil for the first time Friday and vowed to strike again, the response here in Israel was not fear but incredulity. Israeli officials generally dismissed the terrorist Islamist group's assertion that it was behind the shooting and stabbing in Jerusalem that left a 23-year-old policewoman dead along with her attackers.

we see. ISIS makes threats, very grandiose threats, accompanied by snuff videos and things of that nature," Rukmini Callimachi, a New York Times reporter who monitors the group online, told JTA. "Reaction in the West is this is the talk of deranged people, it's all talk and no action, and then

Callimachi and other U.S. analysts warned that the Islamic State rarely bluffs about attacks. The group

The Islamic State, or ISIS, claimed responsibility soon after the attack, which involved a pair of coordinated assaults by three PA Arabs in and around the Old City Friday night. Through its official online news agency, the Islamic State announced that "lions of the caliphate carried out a blessed attack on a gathering of Jews in al-Quds," referring to Jerusalem by its Arabic name. It warned the attack "will not be the last."

Hamas, the Islamist terrorist group that controls the Gaza Strip, rejected the Islamic States' claim early Saturday morning, with a spokesman calling it an "attempt to muddy the waters." The attack was carried out by "two Palestinians from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and a third from Hamas," Sami Abou Zouhri said.

Israel Defense Forces were unimpressed by either group's declarations. They said the attackers appeared to have been part of a local cell with no organizational backing.

"As we understand it, there is no connection between ISIS or Hamas to what happened," a high-ranking military official told JTA Sunday on condition of anonymity. "We understand at the moment that it's a local initiative, a local terrorist cell, without any connection to any terrorist organization."

Jared Kushner is traveling to the Middle East this week to continue work toward a peace But Callimachi said it was unusual for the Islamic State to falsely claim an attack and it was unclear what the group would gain from doing so in Friday's attacks, which she described as "small potatoes." She noted that many attacks connected to the Islamic State are deemed initially to be the work of lone wolves, with evidence of ties to the group only emerging later, often too late to make headlines.

> "Contrary to public perception, ISIS does not claim every attack," she said. "They actually have a very good track record -- there are far more instances of attacks ISIS did but never claimed than the opposite. It doesn't make sense that they would want to [falsely] claim this small attack in a territory where they have already been accused of inspiring attacks at a time when they have had major attacks in places like Europe and Iran."

> Callimachi also pointed out that the Islamic State has repeatedly threatened Israel, including in a December 2015 video believed to feature its leader. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The group eventually followed through against other countries it menaced, she said, including the United Kingdom and Iran.

Local officials confirmed the group's claims of a car ramming and stabbing in London on of two deadly attacks in Britain earlier this year.

Following the Iran attack, Michael S. Smith II, an adviser on terrorism to the U.S. Congress, had predicted Israel would be next. Increased use of Hebrew on Islamic State communication channels hinted to him that something was afoot. With the group suffering military losses in Syria and Iraq, he said, targeting Israel is a good way to win recruits and distinguish itself from competitors.

Smith speculated that both Israeli and Hamas officials were hesitant to credit the Islamic State with the Jerusalem attack for fear of giving it a propaganda victory. He reasoned that neither party wants to see Hamas - which Smith says ideologically "agrees with the Islamic State more than it disagrees" -- face competition to take an even more violent approach to its conflict with Israel.

"I would suspect there's recognition that jumping to claim an attack was Islamic State would be strategically problematic," he told JTA. "Israel and Hamas leadership, although probably not coordinating their response, have similar sets of concerns here -- namely that the dynamic becomes one where there is a need for more conflict to assert Palestinian leadership."

Current and former Israeli officials who work in counterterrorism acknowledged there is still much they do not know about Friday's attacks. But some voiced skepticism that the Islamic State could make inroads among the Palestinian Arabs. Even if it did, they suggested the group would not significantly alter Israel's already challenging security reality.

Islamic State affiliates have claimed rocket fire into Israel, and officials deemed at least two terrorist attacks in the country last year to have been inspired by the group. Yet Arab violence against Israel and Zionism long predates the Islamic State, and large numbers of Arab youths have been launching lone wolf attacks against Israelis since October 2015, moved by personal and political frustrations.

Intelligence Minister Yisrael Katz said Monday that while Israel had no evidence the Jerusalem attackers were linked to any organization, it takes the Islamic State threat "very seriously" and allocates "significant resources" to thwarting attacks at home and abroad. He said Israel is at less risk from the Islamic State than other countries in part because of its well-established defenses and policy of deterrence.

"As far as terror in general is concerned, we feel that Israel is better organized to deal with it as a result of experience and creativity and innovation, in terms of relevant legislation, which is very important, and also in terms of public awareness and fast response by military, police and armed civilians with military experience," Katz told JTA in an email exchange. "Although even with all that, we are unfortunately unable to completely prevent attacks like the one in Jerusalem, which took once again the life of a young policewoman."

Asked if Israel should be more concerned about the Islamic State, Amos Yadlin, a retired major general who served as Israel's chief of military intelligence, reiterated his oft-stated view that the group is "not a critical threat." The second intifada, a bloody Arab terrorist campaign between 2000 and 2005, taught the country how to handle terrorism, he said, leaving him to worry about other security challenges in his current role as head of the head of the influential Institute for National Security Studies think tank.

"With all due respect, we face much bigger concerns than some stabbings," Yadlin told JTA, pointing especially to Iran and its patron in Lebanon, the Shiite Islamist terrorist group Hizbullah. "The rest of the world is already fighting ISIS, but with these other terrorists we're alone."

Modern Blood Libel: Zionists & ISIS are the Same

Marchers in the annual Al-Quds Day parade in London blamed a fire in a low-income apartment complex that left at least 79 dead on "Zionists." Hundreds marched Sunday afternoon behind the Palestinian flag and behind a flag of Hizbullah, which has been named in Britain as an illegal terror organization.

Many marchers also carried paper versions of the Hizbullah flag. No effort was made by London police to stop them, the Jewish Chronicle reported. "This demonstration calls on justice for Grenfell. Some of the biggest supporters of the Conservative Party are Zionists. They are responsible for the murder of the people in Grenfell. The Zionist supporters of the Tory Party. Free, Free, Palestine!" one man shouted into a microphone during the march, according to the Chronicle.

June 3 that killed eight people and a shooting in Tehran on June 7 that killed 18, as well as A New Biblical Interpretation Says Jews Can Eat Bacon After All

It might be time to rethink everything you thought you knew about Jews and bacon. As you know, the laws of kashrut dictate that pigs are inherently unkosher. "And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you" (Leviticus, 11:7). Pretty straightforward.

But Dr. Robert Gnuse, a Religious Studies professor at Loyola University, believes these rules have been misconstrued. Gnuse maintains that the restrictions on clothing and food laid out in the book of Leviticus were actually intended just for the priests, the kohanim. Many years later, during the Jews' Babylonian exile and after the destruction of the first Temple, the kohanim encouraged all Jews to follow these priestly laws so they could experience what Gnuse calls "the enthusiastic selfperception that they were all priests in the new Temple of God, the world."

Obviously, this opens up a big can of Spam for scholars and Jewish pork abstainers most of whom don't buy it. But by parsing the words to look for when priests were singled out, Gnuse may have introduced the loophole so many BLT-lovers were seeking.

After Decades, Rare Recordings of Holocaust Survivors are Recovered

By The Jerusalem Post

A long-missing reel of Holocaust survivors recorded singing after World War II were recently rediscovered at the University of Akron in Ohio, PBS reported.

'It's a bit like hearing the voice of a ghost. Here are voices that have been silent for 70 years.' David Boder

The songs were part of a collection of testimonies recorded over 70 years ago by Chicago-based psychologist David Boder following the liberation of Nazi camps in Europe. The mysterious wire recordings were delivered to the American university in 1967, and remained unheard for decades.

See and hear at https://youtu.be/g3V83GdHYNA

"Scholars were telling us that there was a missing reel. There was a reel of songs that were sung to Boder by Holocaust survivors in a camp in France after the war," Akron Prof. David Baker told PBS affiliate WVIZ 'ideastream' in Cleveland. "We had a box of reels, and scholars would ask from time to time, do you know what's on those? And we had to say, no, we don't."

Therefore, media specialist Jon Endres and his colleague James Newhall spent three years building a mid-century-style playback machine from spare parts that would transmit the audio stored on the spools of thin silver wire.

By reproducing the outdated audio technology, the Akron scholars could emit a set of hauntingly somber Yiddish songs sung by Jews who had survived the harrowing ordeals of the Holocaust. The songs were understood to have been recorded around 1946 at a displaced persons camp some 50 kilometers (31 miles) from Paris.

Baker, the director of Akron's Cummings Center for the History of Psychology, said two of the uncovered songs were sung by a woman named Guta Frank, who had survived several ghettos in Poland and forced-labor work.

One song, translated to "Our village is burning," was adapted by the composer's daughter to inspire Jews in the Krakow ghetto to rebel against the Nazis, Frank discusses in introducing the song in the recording. "It's a bit like hearing the voice of a ghost. Here are voices that have been silent for 70 years," Baker said. "And, all of a sudden, they're singing. And they're singing to us."

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Report: Argentina Sold Yellowcake to Israel for Nuclear Program

By The Jerusalem Post

Argentina helped Israel develop its covert nuclear program by selling the Jewish state dozens of tons of uranium oxide, classified documents published by U.S. magazine Foreign Policy indicated. Yellowcake is a powdered form of uranium that can be used to fuel a nuclear reactor to produce plutonium for building weapons.

How and from whom Israel purchased the necessary materials to develop a sophisticated nuclear program is a hot media topic. Jerusalem has an official policy of ambiguity and refuses to divulge any details about its nuclear program, two factors that amplify global behind it agents found a hidden passageway to a room filled with Nazi imagery. curiosity over the reactor in Israel's Negev Desert, near the town of Dimona.

The fog is lifting on a part of that mystery, though. The U.S. National Security Archives recently released 42 previously classified documents revealing important details about Israel's nuclear program, which have been summarized by the authors of the Foreign Policy report.

In the summer of 1964, the State Department and CIA sent a joint letter to U.S. embassies in Israel and Argentina requesting that they check unverified information about an apparent deal in which Argentina agreed to sell Israel 80-100 tons of yellowcake. The American embassy in Argentina reportedly confirmed the sale, which embarrassed the State Department because its diplomats in Jerusalem should have been privy to the deal, and because Israel had agreed with the U.S. to pursue a nuclear program for "peaceful purposes only."

Though relations between Israel and the U.S. are very strong today, they were less so while Israel was building the nuclear reactor near Dimona. Israel was relying heavily on France for assistance, including a supply of uranium.

However, then-President Charles de Gaulle changed French policy toward Israel, and it appears that in 1963 he ordered that his country stop supplying uranium to Israel. Jerusalem therefore decided to reach out to Argentina, according to the report.

Hidden Trove of Suspected Nazi Artifacts Found in Argentina

By Israel Hayom

Argentinean Police believe they have found the biggest collection of Nazi artifacts in that By JTA nation's history in a hidden room in a house near the country's capital. The haul includes a bust relief of Adolf Hitler, magnifying glasses inside elegant boxes with swastikas, and The long-time director of an arts festival in New Zealand has apologized for removing even a macabre medical device used to measure head size.

Some 75 objects were found in a collector's home in Beccar, a suburb north of Buenos Aires, and authorities say they suspect they are originals that belonged to high-ranking Nazis who were in Germany during World War II. "Our first investigations indicate that these are original pieces," Argentine Security Minister Patricia Bullrich told AP, saying that some pieces were accompanied by old photographs. "This is a way to commercialize them, showing that they were used by the horror, by the Fuhrer [Hitler]. There are photos of him with the objects."

Among the disturbing items were toys that Bullrich said would have been used to indoctrinate children, a large statue of the Nazi eagle above a swastika, a Nazi hourglass and a box of harmonicas. Police say one of the most compelling pieces of evidence of the historical importance of the find is a photographic negative of Hitler holding a magnifying glass like those found in the boxes.

"We have turned to historians and they've told us it is the original magnifying glass [that Hitler was using]," said Nestor Roncaglia, head of Argentina's federal police. "We are reaching out to international experts to deepen [the investigation]." The photograph was not released to the public, but was shown to AP on the condition that it not be published.

The investigation that culminated in the discovery of the collection began when authorities found artworks of illicit origin in a gallery in north Buenos Aires. Agents with the international police force Interpol began following the collector and, after obtaining a judicial order, raided the house on June 8. A large bookshelf caught their attention, and

Authorities did not identify the collector, who remains free but is under investigation by a federal judge. "There are no precedents for a find like this. Pieces are stolen or are imitations. But this is original and we have to get to the bottom of it," Roncaglia said.

Police are trying to determine how the artifacts entered Argentina. The main hypothesis among investigators and members of Argentina's Jewish community is that they were brought to Argentina by a high-ranking Nazi or Nazis after World War II, when the South American country became a refuge for fleeing war criminals, including some of the best known.

Josef Mengele, the notorious doctor who conducted horrendous experiments on Jewish prisoners, fled to Argentina and lived in Buenos Aires for a decade. He moved to Paraguay after Mossad agents captured Holocaust mastermind Adolf Eichmann, who was also living in Buenos Aires. Mengele died in Brazil in 1979 while swimming at a beach in the town of Bertioga.

While police in Argentina did not name any high-ranking Nazis to whom the objects might have originally belonged, Bullrich noted there were medical devices. "There are objects to measure heads -- that was the logic of the Aryan race," she said.

Ariel Cohen Sabban, president of the DAIA, a political umbrella for Argentina's Jewish institutes, called the find "unheard of" in Argentina. "Finding 75 original pieces is historic and could offer irrefutable proof of the presence of top leaders who escaped from Nazi Germany," Cohen told AP.

New Zealand Festival Omits 'Israel' from 'Joseph' Lyrics

the word "Israel" from a song in the musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," scheduled to be performed there.

May Pritchard, who has coordinated the Artsplash festival for the last 30 years, said in a letter to Wellington Regional Jewish Council and other critics of the change that the original words would be reinstated for the performance that will take place in September, the JWire Jewish news website reported. The phrase "Children of Israel are never alone" in the song "Close Every Door," which is performed by Joseph and a choir of children, was altered to read "Children of Kindness." She said that she takes "full responsibility for this unfortunate and regrettable error.

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Kushner, Greenblatt: Peace will 'Take Time'

Arriving at an Israeli-Palestinian peace will "take time," President Donald Trump's top two negotiators said after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. "The United States officials and Israeli leadership underscored that forging peace will take time and stressed the importance of doing everything possible to create an environment conducive to peacemaking," the White House said in a readout after the meeting Wednesday between Netanyahu and Jared Kushner, a senior adviser to Trump and his Jewish son-in-law, and Jason Greenblatt, his special envoy to the region.

The cautious tone appeared to defer to Netanyahu's preference to go slow in advancing Israeli-Palestinian peace. Netanyahu does not believe that the Palestinians are fully committed to coexistence and accuses their leadership of continuing to incite violence.

For their part, Palestinian Authority officials have enthusiastically embraced Trump's hopes of reviving the talks and have dropped some previous prior demands, including that Israel freeze settlement building.

Greenblatt and Kushner are tasked with reviving peace negotiations. Greenblatt has visited the region Former deputy defense minister Ehpraim Sneh warned that Israel multiple times since Trump became president in January, while Kushner was making his first visit as an envoy. He accompanied Trump during his one-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian areas last month.

Also present at the meeting was David Friedman, the U.S. ambassador to Israel. "The three United States" former deputy defense minister Sneh said on Wednesday. officials discussed Israel's priorities and potential next steps with Prime Minister Netanyahu, acknowledging the critical role Israel plays in the security of the region," the readout said.

At week's end. Greenblatt and Kushner are to return to Washington and bring their summary of meetings in the region to Trump and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. After that, discussions will be held about the next steps the administration intends to take, while the American side makes it destroyed" as Israeli retaliation for Hizbullah rockets, he asserted. clear that the desire is to bring about a meeting between Netanyahu and Abbas in the near future.

IAF Chief: We Can Do in Under 3 Days What IAF Did During Entire 2006 War

By DEBKAfile, YnetNews.com & The Jerusalem Post

The commander of the Israeli Air Force, Maj. Gen. Amir Eshel, said in a speech on Wednesday that the IAF now needs no more than 60 hours, and possibly only 48 hours, to achieve as much as it did during all 34 days of the 2nd Lebanon War in 2006.

If another war with Hizbullah breaks out on the northern front, Israel's forces including the IAF will need to deliver as powerful a strike as possible in the limited time available, accord- Statistics show that over 200 women were refused a get by their ing to the general. He said the IAF now has powerful weapons that it did not have in the past. As to the risk of civilian casualties during such a conflict, he called on Lebanese civilians to leave their homes if they are being used by the terrorist organization to hide missile launchers. Eshel added it is important that most of the IAF's operations go unreported because the difference between success and failure is sometimes a matter of seconds.

Israeli politicians and generals have spoken often of an intention to hit hard in Lebanon if war breaks out, in an apparent bid to deter Hizbullah. Eshel said in 2014 that another conflict could see Israeli attacks 15 times more devastating for Lebanon than in 2006. But he added that "many elements busy achieving their goals" in Syria's civil war were interested in preventing any fresh hostilities in Lebanon, where Israel says Hizbullah has built up an arsenal of more than 100,000 rockets.

Although Israel has kept to the sidelines of the war in Syria, Israeli aircraft have targeted suspected Iranian arms shipments to Hizbullah, operations complicated by Russian and US air activity in the region. "The skies of the Middle East are a lot more crowded than before, with lots of players," Eshel said, pointing to the need for the air force to operate "surgically" to avoid "mistakes."

About 1,200 Lebanese, mostly civilians, and 160 Israelis, most of them troops fighting Hizbullah, were killed in the 2006 war, which displaced a million people in Lebanon and up to 500,000 in Israel.

should be prepared to react to unforeseen aggression from Lebanon by hitting it where it hurts the most. "If Hizbullah fires at Israel," the IDF "should strike Iran's infrastructure" in response,

Explaining the logic of this strategy as part of a panel on Iran at the Herzliya Conference, Sneh said that Iran uses Hizbullah to attack Israel without having to consider any deterrent that it cares about. "Iran does not give a damn if Lebanon's infrastructure is

The Silent Tragedy of Men That Suffer from Recalcitrant Wives

By IsraelNationalNews.com

Rabbinical courts pride themselves on helping women chained to recalcitrant husbands - but what about the men chained to recalcitrant wives? On Tuesday morning, the rabbinical court publicized 2016's divorce statistics, including those on "chained" spouses, whose spouse refuses to grant a religious divorce.

husbands, but what about the men whose wives refused to accept a divorce? Arutz Sheva spoke with family attorney Ido Divon about the issue. According to Divon, the issue of "chained spouses" does not only affect women, since Jewish law requires the woman to accept a divorce willingly for it to be valid.

grant the divorce willingly. People think that because men can technically receive permission to remarry, they can refuse to grant a divorce but cannot be refused a divorce.

"The problem is exactly the opposite: Rabbinical courts look for ways to allow women to remarry despite their husband's refusal to grant a divorce, but they ignore the problem of men being refused a divorce by their wives. It's very rare for a man to be granted permission to remarry before his wife accepts a divorce.

"Statistics show that more men are punished for refusing to divorce their wives than are granted permission to remarry despite the wife's refusal to divorce. Allowing someone to remarry is a long process. The rabbinical courts are war of it, and they're afraid of being criticized. Former Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau was famous for refusing to allow men to remarry if granting the permission required the approval of Israel's chief rabbis.

"In addition, religious men who are refused a divorce are considered married by society - even after they receive permission to remarry. They really suffer. Men are often jailed for refusing to On the evening of the putsch anniversary, Elser took a train to the Swiss border to await news of Hitler's Jewish law considers coercing a husband to grant a divorce worse The blast killed seven Nazi officials and, to Elser's lifelong regret, an innocent waitress. than coercing a wife to grant a divorce.

"I've been working for dozens of years to change the way the rabbinical courts work. There's a lot of pressure from feminists and from women's organizations, and there's a lot of awareness of chained women in the media. I agree that it's worse for a woman to be denied a divorce, because society is more accepting of married women who involve themselves in the same. But the risk is there his child, does he acknowledge the plot, with himself as the sole author. for men, too, and society is not always forgiving.

"Men's organizations need to speak up and to put pressure on the public and on the organizations involved. They need to say their opinion, and they need to do exactly what the pistol shot through the neck. Two weeks after Elser was killed, U.S. troops liberated Dachau. women's organizations have done: Scream about the issues."

Divon says he doesn't know how widespread the phenomenon is, but he expects that if a woman is sent to jail for refusing to divorce her husband, it'll make it to the media. "When the rabbinical court puts a recalcitrant husband in jail, everyone celebrates. But if they would have done the and the media would have had a ball 'proving' how women By JTA are discriminated against in the rabbinical courts - even though that's absolutely not true, since rabbinical courts give Large parts of Florida are suffering from severe drought, and hurricane season threatens to make things women preferential treatment, especially in divorce cases."

The Man Who Nearly Killed Hitler: An Incredible True Story By JTA

What if Adolf Hitler had been assassinated shortly after his armies invaded Poland to start World War II? How would global - and Jewish — history have played out? The question is not answered directly in the German film "13 Minutes." But the movie, based on an actual, lone-wolf plot to kill the Fuehrer that nearly succeeded, is both a classical thriller, pitting one man against the system, and an exploration of how minute circumstance can affect the fates of millions.

"13 Minutes" is directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel, who is perhaps best known for his remake of "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" with Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig, as well as "The Downfall," which re-created Hitler's last days in a Berlin bunker.

"Men suffer from get (religious divorce) refusal no less than At the heart of the film's plot (See https://youtu.be/X5-Ndl9Lr3o) is Georg Elsner (played by Christian women do," Divon said. "Usually, we think of women as chained Friedel), a 35-year-old carpenter and tinkerer in a small Swabian village who played in the town band and was spouses, for whom no solution can be found, because men have to popular with the local girls. He's a communist sympathizer — but not a party member — who observes with growing concern how his village gradually transformed during the early years of Nazi rule.

> Elser sees an acquaintance who is forced to sit on the street — surrounded by Brownshirts and townspeople with a sign around her neck reading, "In the village I am the greatest swine and consort only with Jews" (it rhymes in German). He attends a propaganda film in which Hitler proclaims that under his rule every German will have a radio, then a luxury, and the rutted village roads will be paved and lighted.

> At a time when "expert" statesmen and pundits maintained that Hitler represented a temporary aberration or could be appeased, Elser becomes convinced that the Fuehrer will plunge Germany into war — and that if nobody else will stop the Nazi dictator, he must do the job himself.

> Elser knew that Hitler addressed his followers at Munich's largest beer hall every November 8, the date of his foiled 1923 putsch to seize power in the Bavarian city as a base to overthrow the Weimar Republic. So, starting in late 1938, he repeatedly visited the hall, taking careful measurements of the columns flanking the speaker's podium. He took a job in an armaments factory, smuggling out explosives, dynamite and detonators.

> As November 8 drew closer, Elser labored night after night on his knees, holding a flashlight in his mouth, to insert the homemade bomb into the column. He connected the bomb to two clocks timed to trigger during Hitler's typically lengthy tirade.

grant their wives a divorce - but wives are rarely, if ever, jailed for death. Instead, however, he learned that the Fuehrer had unexpectedly cut short his speech. Exactly 13 refusing to divorce their husbands. And this is true even though minutes after Hitler left the podium, the bomb exploded at the precise spot where Hitler had been standing.

> As Elser tried to cross the border into Switzerland, something about his behavior aroused the suspicion of a German border guard, who arrested Elser and sent him, under guard, to a Gestapo prison in Berlin.

Hitler was convinced that Elser was but a tool in a vast conspiracy orchestrated by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and demanded that Elser be tortured until he revealed the masterminds behind the assassination attempt. But even under the most brutal torture, Elser refused to give even men who are involve in extramarital relationships than of married his name and birth date. Only after the Gestapo drags in his longtime lover, who is pregnant with

> Nobody believed Elser's story, but instead of being executed on the spot, he was shipped to various concentration camps, ending up in Dachau. In April 1945, however, as Hitler's dream of a 1,000-year Reich came crashing down, the Fuehrer remembered Elser — and ordered that he be executed with a

> "13 Minutes," released in Germany in 2015 with the title "Elser — He Would Have Changed the World," was well received by German critics and the public, Hirschbiegel said by phone from Vienna. The influential magazine Der Spiegel noted that because of the film, Elser became recognized as "a true German hero" after having been largely ignored by historians.

same thing to a recalcitrant wife, the women's organizations Israeli Company Makes Water from Air

worse. Enter Water-Gen, an Israeli company whose technology captures humidity to extract drinking water from the air. On Monday, the South Florida city of Miami Gardens announced it was launching a pilot program with the company to address its water problems -- the first U.S. city to do so.

Over the next two weeks, Miami Gardens will use a midsized Water-Gen generator to produce drinking water for its residents. Water-Gen officials said they hope the pilot leads to contracts with Miami Gardens and other parts of Florida. The company's largest generator yields as much as 825 gallons of water per day for only 10 cents a gallon, mostly in energy costs, according to the company.

Florida gets much of its drinking water from the Floridian Aquifer and the Biscayne Aquifer, as well as from surface water from Lake Okeechobee and other lakes, but population increases have strained available sources. Because of the drought, Miami-Dade County, where Miami Gardens in located, has put restrictions on water use, including banning residents from watering outdoors between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, in an interview last December with CBS's "60 Minutes," touted the technology to counter worldwide water scarcity and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel. "There is no weapon more powerful in the fight against BDS than for Israel to develop technologies that the world cannot live without," he said. "You cannot boycott products that you can't live without."

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Massive Iranian Funding for Anti-Israel Terror Groups is Revealed

By The Jerusalem Post

Iran's massive funding of terrorist groups that endanger Israel was exposed in shocking detail by IDF Military Intelligence chief Maj.- Gen. Hertzi Halevi. Speaking at the IDC Herzliya Conference, Halevi revealed that Iran is funding H1zbullah to the tune of \$75 million a year, while paying \$50m. of Hamas's budget and approximately \$70m. to Islamic Jihad.

Connecting Hamas's alliance with Iran to recent criticism of Israel for the humanitarian situation in the Gaza strip, Halevi placed the blame for a lack of construction supplies and the electricity problem squarely on Hamas. Israel has let into the Strip "four times the volume of building materials" required to build one of the world's largest buildings, but "Hamas is using the materials for war, not rebuilding," he said.

Furthermore, he said that "the dispute about electricity in Gaza is an internal Palestinian issue" between Hamas and Fatah (which controls the Palestinian Authority). At the same time, he said Israel needed to "make Hamas choose its priorities" regarding whether it wanted to rebuild its society, or instead use money meant to pay for civilians' electricity to arm itself.

Returning to the Iranian funding and support of terrorism, Halevi noted that Tehran is regularly "acting to get exact and advanced weapons into Lebanon and Yemen." Hinting at Israeli air strikes in Syria on these transfers of advanced weapons, he said, "Israel cannot ignore this development and we have not."

Halevi also surveyed Iran's other activities, asking, "Why did Iran fire" a long-range missile at ISIS in Syria at the start of the week, instead of "using its nearby forces" already stationed in Syria. He said the answer could be that Iran's missile strike might not have been a real show of strength, "and maybe was not so successful, but it was still worrisome."

Israel to Overhaul Security at Damas- El Al airlines cannot ask women to move seats to accommodate a man who does not cus Gate to Foil Attacks

By DEBKAfile

In the aftermath of last week's attack on Israeli security forces at Damascus Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem, Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan said Thursday that Israel will conduct an "unprecedented" overhaul of the area's entire security system.

He said during a speech in Herzliya that positions, cameras and other assets will be changed to significantly reduce Palestinian attacks at the gate area where 32 attacks have taken place since 2015.

On June 16, a 23-year-old female Israeli Border Police officer on guard duty outside Damascus Gate was stabbed to death during an assault by three Palestinian terrorists on the gate area. All the terrorists were shot dead.

Liberman: Abbas Seeks to Force Hamas into War over Gaza Crisis: Defense Minister

In a speech on Thursday, Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said that the internal Palestinian conflict over the supply of electricity to Gaza is not going to end anytime soon. He predicted that Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas is going to halt the transfer of fuel, stop paying salaries in Gaza and continue to cut the flow of electricity to push Hamas into another war against Israel.

Regarding Syria, Lieberman warned the Syrian regime that it will bear responsibility for Hizbullah's attempts to establish a front against Israel on the Golan and to smuggle advanced weaponry to its forces. The use of Damascus international airport to smuggle weapons to the terrorist organization is intolerable, and Israel will not hesitate to act once a certain line is crossed, Lieberman said.

Even if the US and Russia reach an agreement on Syria it will not hinder Israel's freedom of action on the northern front, according to the minister. However, he stated that Israel has no intention to go to war on the northern or southern front.

The defense minister also predicted that the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians will be resolved in the framework of a future regional arrangement with the moderate Sunni states including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He said the Palestinians are not capable of signing a peace agreement with Israel by themselves.

El Al Fined for Asking Holocaust Survivor to Change Her Seat

By JTA

want to sit next to a person of the opposite gender, a Jerusalem court found in response to a lawsuit filed by a Holocaust survivor in her 80s.

In a Wednesday decision, Jerusalem Magistrate's Court Judge Dana Cohen-Lekah said that the airline's policy of asking a woman to give up her seat at the request of a haredi Orthodox man is "a direct transgression of the law preventing discrimination."

Women who are asked to move their seats, are not required to do so. Renee Rabinowitz, 83, a retired lawyer who made aliyah more than a decade ago and had been visiting family in the United States, agreed to switch her seat in business class on the December 2015 flight from Newark, New Jersey, to Israel.

A flight attendant offered Rabinowitz a "better seat" closer to first class. She told the New York Times at the time that the lawsuit was filed that the flight attendant "treated me as if I was stupid" in trying to make the switch. The airline had offered Rabinowitz a \$200 discount on her next El Al flight and she was told that she was under no obligation to make the switch.

The judge awarded Rabinowitz 6,500 shekels, or about \$1,800, in compensation. Her lawyer originally asked for 50,000 shekels, or about \$14,000. The judge also ruled that the airline must declare that it is forbidden for a crew member to ask a passenger to change seats at the request of another passenger based on gender. El Al agreed to tell its cabin staff in writing about the prohibition within 45 days, and to provide training in how to deal with such situations within six months, according to the New York Times.

Rabinowitz was represented by the Israel Religious Action Center, or IRAC, the public and legal advocacy arm of the Reform Movement in Israel, which had been looking for a test case on switching seats in which the flight attendant was actively involved in making the switch.

"Renee Rabinowitz, an 82-year old Holocaust survivor, set out to fight El Al because she wanted to prevent humiliation and discrimination of other women on flights. Just like Gal Gadot, Rabinowitz is a beautiful Israeli who has proven that she has superpowers," Anat Hoffman, executive director of IRAC, said in a statement.

The Secret Behind an Amazon Bestseller Detailing the History of the Palestinians

By The Jerusalem Post & Haaretz

Sometimes it's important not to judge a book by its cover. Israeli publicist and editor Assaf A. Voll's book, "A History of the Palestinian People: From Ancient Times to the Modern Era," just ranked the respectable second spot on Amazon's list of best-selling books in the category of 'Israel and Palestine History' and has become a huge Internet sensation, but not for the reasons you would imagine.

The lengthy paperback, which can be purchased via Amazon for \$7.99, is described on the site as "a fruit of many years of research," and is proclaimed to be "the most comprehensive and extensive review of some 3,000 years of Palestinian history, with emphasis on the Palestinian people's unique contribution to the world and to humanity."

The catch? This lauded historical account that is also available in Arabic and in Hebrew and was penned by the Israeli writer offers no real insight, let alone content. Yes, that's right- "History of the Palestinian People" is a book whose every single page (and there are 120 of them) is a blank.

As Amazon offers no disclaimer on the site to explain that the novel is not the deeplyresearched account it appears to be, it remains unclear if the book's multiple buyers were duped by the promising title or were in on Voll's sardonic joke.

Voll, the "author" of the book explained the motivations behind writing it to the religious radio station "Kol Hai": "The Palestinian people believe they are a people, and someone needs to tell them the truth even if it hurts. Look what happens when they were given the feeling that they are a real people.

Voll's argument that the Palestinians are not a people because they are void of history isn't new – it is a mainstay of the Israeli right, which has claimed that Palestinian nationalism was invented by the Arab leaders to destroy Israel.

In reality, Palestinian history goes back hundreds of years. What is relatively new, however, is Palestinian nationalism, which only began to appear in the early 20th century and coalesced into a national movement after 1948.

The argument used by the Israeli right seems to imply that a group may only call itself "a people" if it has always existed, which is false because all peoples have at one point or another come into being.

Google: We Haven't Done Enough to Stop Terrorism

By IsraelNationalNews.com

Google has admitted that it was not doing enough to fight online terrorism, pledging to take steps to do more. "While we and others have worked for years to identify and remove content that violates our policies, the uncomfortable truth is that we, as an industry, must acknowledge that more needs to be done. Now," wrote Kent Walker, Google's general counsel, in an op-ed in the Financial Times.

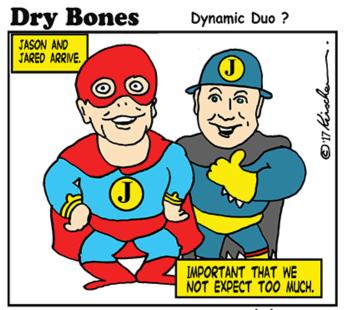
"We have thousands of people around the world who review and counter abuse of our platforms. Our engineers have developed technology to prevent re-uploads of known terrorist content using image-matching technology. We have invested in systems that use content-based signals to help identify new videos for removal. And we have developed partnerships with expert groups, counter-extremism agencies, and the other technology companies to help inform and strengthen our efforts," he added.

Walker listed four steps that Google and YouTube would be taking to fight against terror. These include an increase in the use of technology to help identify extremist and terrorism-related videos, an increase in the number of independent experts in YouTube's Trusted Flagger program, a tougher stance on videos that may not clearly violate policies but that contain inflammatory religious or supremacist content, and a move by YouTube to expand its role in counter-radicalization efforts.

"We have also recently committed to working with industry colleagues—including Facebook, Microsoft, and Twitter—to establish an international forum to share and develop technology and support smaller companies and accelerate our joint efforts to tackle terrorism online," added Walker.

Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan (Likud) welcomed Google's announcement. "This is the beginning of a revolution. In the past year and a half, I have worked with my colleagues around the world to persuade Internet companies to take responsibility and fight online incitement to terrorism." he said.

"Today, Google admitted: We have not done enough and from now on we will do a lot more. Well done Google. Facebook and Twitter must also act - in order to prevent the next attack," added Erdan.



Courtesy of Yaakov Kirschen

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