

# Israel News Desk

with  
BPF Secretary Steve Lloyd  
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As the UN and the rest of the World continue to blame Israel for all sorts of things, including the theft of rain clouds in Iran that is causing their severe drought, according to one of Iran's top Generals, it is great to see that Israeli technology was at the heart of the Thailand Soccer team rescue.

Since June 23rd a group of 12 boys and their Coach were cut off in some caves following a heavy downpour that blocked their escape. Tribute must be paid to all involved in the rescue, but it was an Israeli technology firm - Maxtech Networks that was at the forefront in providing specialist underground communications for the rescue effort.

It would seem, wherever there is a disaster around the world - Israel is there providing aid and expertise.

Israel is also planning to plant an Israeli flag on the moon in early 2019. The SpaceIL Corporation has announced a mission that would make Israel the fourth country to make a lunar landing. The SpaceIL spacecraft will be launched from the US on a Falcon 9 orbital launch vehicle in December with a Lunar landing to take place on February 13th 2019.

Also in Israel, a Byzantine-period Synagogue in Huqoq is once again proving to be an eye opener. In its 8th dig season the fifth Century synagogue excavated in the Galilee has uncovered a mosaic flooring that depicts many biblical stories, including the Israelite spies in Canaan. The depictions are said to be 'unparalleled' and have not been found in any other synagogue.

Ireland - Israel has condemned the reintroduction of a bill in Ireland that would outlaw the import and sale of Israeli goods made in Judea and Samaria as an "Immoral" move that encourages terrorism.

The Embassy of Israel is concerned by bills that further the divisions between Israel and the Palestinians. Legislation, which promotes a boycott of any kind, should be rejected as it does nothing to achieve peace but rather empowers the Hamas terrorists as well as those Palestinians who refuse to come to the negotiating table," the Israeli Mission in Dublin said in a statement on 4th July.

South Africa - Ambassador Sisa Ngombane was recalled in May after IDF troops allegedly killed more than 50 Palestinian protestors at the Israeli-Gaza border . It has since been proved that the majority of those killed belonged to Hamas and were legitimate targets.

South Africa will not be reinstating its ambassador to Israel, despite pressure from Jewish groups in the country.

The ruling African National Congress party recently called for the downgrading of the South African Embassy in Israel, which is located in Tel Aviv, due to what it said was the "lack of commitment from Israel on Palestine"

Poland - Poland has backed down from a controversial new law which called for prison terms of up to three years for falsely accusing the Polish nation of Holocaust crimes that were committed by Nazi Germany.

A new version of the law removes the criminal provisions. Authorities were furious that foreign media sometimes called Auschwitz and other German death camps "Polish death camps" because they were operated on occupied Polish Territory. But the law sparked a major diplomatic crisis with Israel, where many felt it was an attempt to whitewash Polish violence against Jews in the Second World war.

Prince William - The Prince's tour of Israel appears to have gone well with him attending the Western Wall wearing a Kippa and placing a message in the cracks of the wall.

His three day visit saw him appearing dignified and statesmanlike at meetings with premier Benjamin Netanyahu and president Reuven Rivlin.

On his visit to Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial he voiced his horror at the sight of shoes left behind by Jews murdered by the Nazis. Yad Vashem chairman, Avner Shalev said of the Prince "He wondered what kind of deep hatred could have driven people to commit such horrific acts".

US - Trump advisor Jared Kushner has said that America will soon present its Israeli-Palestinian peace plan....with or without input from Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas. Kushner said that if Abbas was not willing to return to negotiations, America would likely air its blueprint for peace publicly.

Israel enthusiastically welcomed the news that the US is withdrawing from the UN Human Rights council over its bias against the Jewish State. The US decision to leave this prejudiced body is an unequivocal statement that enough is enough.

US ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, called the HRC "an organisation that is not worthy of its name". She said that America had given the organisation "opportunity after opportunity" to make changes. The HRC membership includes accused human rights abusers such as China, Cuba, Venezuela and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Bulgaria - As a 'first step', Bulgaria is to open an honorary consulate in Jerusalem. Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov said "Bulgaria is convinced that the Jewish people's relation to Jerusalem is indisputable".

Czech Republic - At the end of may the Czech Republic reopened its honorary consulate in Jerusalem. It has been closed since 2016. The Czech Embassy has been in Tel Aviv since 1949. The Czech Foreign Ministry says it considers Jerusalem to be the capital of both Israel and the future Palestinian State.

Guatemala - Israeli medics are treating victims of the devastating Fuego volcano eruption using a special enzyme developed at Soroka-University medical Centre in Beersheba.  
The enzyme helps the speedy recovery of burns and reduces the need for surgery

Roman Abramovich - The Russian billionaire businessman and owner of Chelsea Football Club has made Aliyah. He landed at Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion Airport where he met interior ministry officials....and received his Israeli ID card. Sources state that he had been planning the move for some time and that he is very committed to Israel. He is currently building a mansion in the upmarket Neve Tzedek area of Tel Aviv.

Keep praying for Israel, for the peace of Jerusalem and for the salvation of the Jewish people.

Maranatha

Steve