

Newsbytes

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

Just a reminder that our 19th annual Great Lakes Prophecy Conference is on the radar! Sept 8 - 10. If you want to ramp up your discernment and be found watching and waiting all the more, I suggest you come join us, you will be refreshed and encouraged. If we really believe we are in the final hours before Jesus returns for His church, this event helps encourage us to live what we believe in spite of so many distractions. The teachers we bring in are the best in the field of eschatology. Go to ccappleton.org to register.

Netanyahu to UN Chief: We Won't Let Iran Surround Us

jpost.co.il

Netanyahu to UN chief: We won't let Iran surround us
UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (L) and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem August 28, 2017.. (photo credit:REUTERS)

Jerusalem cannot be expected to sit idly by as Iran entrenches itself in Syria and Lebanon and declares with Hezbollah that they are planning a two-front war against Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday.

“Iran is busy turning Syria into a base of military entrenchment and it wants to use Syria and Lebanon as war fronts [in] its declared goal to eradicate Israel,” Netanyahu said before his meeting in Jerusalem with Guterres. “It is also building sites to produce precision- guided missiles toward that end in both Syria and in Lebanon. This is something Israel cannot accept. This is something the UN should not accept.”

During the meeting, Netanyahu said: “It is our right not to allow this noose to tighten around Israel.”

Diplomatic sources said Israel sees Guterres's first visit here since taking office in January as a good opportunity to present its case before having to take action in Syria or Lebanon, well aware that any action it takes will lead for calls of condemnation in the UN Security Council.

During a day packed with meetings with the country's senior political and military officials, Guterres was shown intelligence information on Hezbollah's build-up in southern Lebanon.

Israel's leaders, from President Reuven Rivlin and Netanyahu down through Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman and new Zionist Union head Avi Gabbay, bombarded Guterres with a litany of complaints about the organization he heads.

For his part, Guterres said Israel should expect impartiality from the UN secretary-general, and he will strive to be an "honest broker."

He stressed during the day, on a number of different occasions, that calling for the destruction of Israel is modern antisemitism.

But, he said during a meeting with Rivlin, "you also understand that I sometimes disagree with positions of the government of Israel or any other government, and that is absolutely normal in a society where many of your citizens have exactly the same expressions of opinion."

Netanyahu welcomed Guterres by saying that he has demonstrated a desire to turn a new page in relations between Israel and the UN, but then lashed into the organization's "absurd obsession with Israel," and its "flagrantly discriminatory tactics."

The UN mandate is to advance peace, security and international cooperation, but it "has failed when it comes to Israel to live up to its mandate," he said.

Netanyahu said UNESCO is mandated with preserving world heritage, but denies the Jewish people's 3,000-year connection to Jerusalem. And the UN is mandated to pursue peace, "but allows Palestinian hate speech to flourish in its institutions."

Also, he said, the institution is mandated to stand up for human rights, "but it allows in its various forms the worst human rights violators to take up the cudgel and to accuse Israel of violating human rights."

Netanyahu said the most pressing problem Israel faces now is Hezbollah and Syria.

Referring to Security Council Resolution 1701, which set the terms for the end of the Second Lebanon War in 2006, Netanyahu said the UN was mandated with preventing weapons shipments to Hezbollah, but that UNIFIL has not even reported one of the "tens of thousands of weapons smuggling into Lebanon for Hezbollah, contrary to 1701."

Guterres responded: "I will do everything in my capacity to make sure that UNIFIL fully meets its mandate."

UNIFIL's mandate is up for renewal next week, and both Israel and the US are pressing for its mandate to be strengthened in order to more effectively combat or at least report on Hezbollah's weapons build-up.

France, on the other hand, has raised its voice against changing the mandate.

US Ambassador Nikki Haley took UNIFIL Irish commander Maj.-Gen. Michael Beary to task on Friday.

"Gen. Beary says there are no Hezbollah weapons," she said. "That's an embarrassing lack of understanding on what's going on around him."

In addition to meeting Rivlin and Netanyahu, Guterres also met with Liberman, and the Zionist Union delegation that included Gabbay, opposition leader Isaac Herzog and MK Tzipi Livni.

He also met with head of Military Intelligence, Maj.-Gen. Herzl Halevi, and Maj.-Gen. Yoav Mordechai, the coordinator of government activities in the territories.

In addition, Guterres met the families of the Israelis held by Hamas in Gaza, and was urged throughout the day to use his influence to bring about their release. Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon called the meeting “emotional.”

Guterres is scheduled to go to Gaza on Wednesday, but will not be meeting any Hamas representatives there.

On Tuesday he will go to Ramallah for meetings with Palestinian Authority leaders.

Soon after arriving Sunday evening, Guterres met with US negotiator Jason Greenblatt and discussed the diplomatic process as well as the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Guterres began the day Monday with a visit to Yad Vashem, which he said serves as a reminder “that we need to be in the first line of fighting against antisemitism and also fighting against all other forms of bigotry, be it racism, xenophobia or even anti-Muslim hatred, and to promote understanding and to promote dialogue.”

After his visit to Yad Vashem, Guterres – a former Portuguese prime minister – planted an olive tree in the KKL-JNF Grove of Nations in the Jerusalem forest.

Guterres’s maternal family name is Oliveira, which means “olive tree” in Portuguese. He said during the ceremony that when he was born, his grandfather planted an olive tree in his honor. “That tree remains standing, meaning we have many things in common,” he said.

Hamas Vows to “Pummel” Israel in Next War

thetower.org

In a rare briefing to journalists, Gaza-based Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar said yesterday his organization will “pummel” Israel if another war erupts.

Sinwar told journalists that Hamas “is not seeking a confrontation” with Israel, but “if such a confrontation should arise, Hamas will pummel Israel.”

Despite claiming that Israel is not starting a war with Gaza because of the “fear of the unknown,” he warned Israel against “taking stupid steps against the Gaza Strip” and claimed that “the Palestinian resistance has the ability to respond” to any provocations. Sinwar stressed that Hamas would be willing to dissolve its Administrative Committee, a shadow government that was formed in March and led to a series of punitive steps by Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas, “if we were convinced that we would not return to the vicious cycle [Abbas] put us in.”

Sinwar said the Egyptian government committed itself to opening the Rafah crossing for goods and passengers after the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha.

Sinwar also talked about improving the electricity situation in Gaza, which under Palestinian Authority (PA) sanctions receives only three to four hours of power a day. In June a deal was reached between former senior Fatah member Mohammed Dahlan, Hamas and Egypt, which included an agreement that Hamas will remain responsible for the internal and external security of the Gaza Strip, while a committee – headed by Dahlan – will be set up to run Gaza affairs with a £39 million (\$50.2 million) budget.

In related news, a Hamas security official was killed last night in a suicide attack apparently carried out by a Salafi operative in Rafah on the Gaza-Egypt border. The Hamas Interior Ministry in Gaza announced that a Hamas security force stationed on the border arrested two suspects who approached the border with Egypt and one of them blew himself up. Palestinian newspaper Al-Quds reported that the bomber was a member of Islamic State.

Keyo lets you pay for food, drink and goods with a wave of the hand

Chicago Tribune

A Chicago startup is offering a handy new way to pay for coffee, food and even clothing at retailers.

In fact, your hand is all you'll need to make purchases using technology from Keyo, a biometrics payment company. It allows you to pay by just hovering your palm over a scanner at the store — replacing cash, cards and phones in transactions.

Each Keyo account is linked to a credit or debit card. Users register online, then complete the setup by scanning their palm print at a merchant using Keyo.

During future visits to any Keyo terminal, a touchless scan of the hand and a tap of a screen to approve a payment completes the transaction. No personal payment information is transmitted to the stores. Palm scans are deleted if the account isn't used in a year.

CEO Jaxon Klein said the technology takes the convenience of mobile payments and digital wallets while eliminating the need to pull out a smartphone.

Since piloting at Cup & Spoon coffee shop in Humboldt Park last summer and launching at Big & Little's restaurant in Wicker Park in the fall, the system has spread to six locations, including JuiceRX in Old Town, Werewolf Coffee Bar in Bucktown, Country Club Estates Golf Course in Fontana, Wis., and Line Honors yachting apparel store in Lake Geneva, Wis.

There's no fee for shoppers. Keyo charges merchants a 1 percent processing fee, much less than the standard 2 to 5 percent fee typically charged by credit card payment processing companies. Klein said Keyo was able to negotiate lower rates with credit card processors because of the low likelihood of fraud from a biometric payment system; he said Keyo still has some room for profit in that rate.

Klein said he and his wife, Cayetana Polanco, hit on the idea for the company after they went grocery shopping with their 5-day-old baby but forgot a wallet.

"We didn't have any food in the house and family was coming in and we had a huge shopping list," he said. "We went home empty-handed."

The couple, who ran a technology company, determined they'd come across a problem worth solving.

They started looking at a broad range of biometric technologies on the market, including facial recognition, fingerprint and iris sensors.

"We tested everything we could get our hands on, organized the pros and cons of each one," Klein said. "We were trying to understand which was more appropriate for use at the point of sale. It had to be a combination of very, very accurate and secure, but also easy to use for customers, very quick and relatively inexpensive."

Palm prints won out over fingerprints because the tech is more sanitary — it doesn't require actually pressing the palm to any equipment — and over iris scanners because palm-scanning tech is quicker and less expensive, he said.

The couple consulted early on with Chicago friends Delna Sepoy Straus and Aaron Straus, who later joined as co-founders. Together, the team developed the software around palm sensors made by Fujitsu.

The company, based at the Currency fintech center at WeWork Kinzie, said it has raised an undisclosed amount of money from family, friends and angel investors and expects to be in 100 locations by the end of the year. It's also taking part in Silicon Valley-based startup accelerator Plug and Play, which Klein believes will connect Keyo with household names in finance and banking.

McKenzie Gilliam, general manager of DMK Restaurants' Werewolf Coffee Bar, was sold on the idea as soon as it was presented. The 4-month-old shop at 1765 N. Elston Ave. began using Keyo in July.

"I think biometrics are the way of the future," she said. "It works for us because we're in an office building and we have a lot of regulars, and a lot of people who come down two or three times a day from their office. This is really convenient for them. They don't have to bring anything with them — just their palm."

About 10 people use it regularly, she said.

"For us, it makes sense financially because it's a 1 percent across-the-board processing fee," Gilliam said. "That helps us cut back on credit card processing fees."

Video of this tech is at

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/bluesky/originals/ct-bsi-keyo-biometric-payment-20170823-story.html>

Cheryl V. Jackson is a freelance writer.

....and finally, from our "this is really creepy but the potential for future (prophetic) use is possibly significant" file:

Scientists remotely hacked a brain, controlling body movements

Mike Wehner <http://bgr.com/2017/08/18/brain-hack-science-limb-control/>

Imagine someone remotely controlling your brain, forcing your body's central processing organ to send messages to your muscles that you didn't authorize. It's an incredibly scary thought, but scientists have managed to accomplish this science fiction nightmare for real, albeit on a much small scale, and they were even able to prompt their test subject to run, freeze in place, or even completely lose control over

their limbs. Thankfully, the research will be used for good rather than evil... for now.

The effort, led by physics professor Arnd Pralle, PhD, of the University at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences, focused on a technique called “magneto-thermal stimulation.” It’s not exactly a simple process — it requires the implantation of specially built DNA strands and nanoparticles which attach to specific neurons — but once the minimally invasive procedure is over, the brain can be remotely controlled via an alternating magnetic field. When those magnetic inputs are applied, the particles heat up, causing the neurons to fire.

The study, which was published in the most recent edition of the journal eLife, includes experiments where were performed on mice. Using the new technique, the researchers were able to control the movement of the animals, causing them to freeze, lock up their limbs, turn around, or even run.

Despite only being tested on mice, the research could have far-reaching implications in the realm of brain research. The holy grail for dreamers like Elon Musk is that we’ll one day be able to tweak our brains to eliminate mood disorders and make us more perfect creatures. This groundbreaking research could very well be an important step towards that future.