Ynet-News, May 10, 2020 – Sunday

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A 70 year buried mural from Israel's War for Independence discovered

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A mural from Israel's War for Independence discovered
The mural was most likely drawn by a soldier who participated in the battles for the Arab villages Al-Qastal, and Qalunya in 1948, officials search for the painter who should be in his 90s if alive
Itamar Eichner| Published: 05.10.20 , 23:11

A mural drawn by an Israeli soldier in 1948 during Israel's War of Independence, was uncovered recently, after a wall collapsed during construction work in Mevaseret Zion, near Jerusalem.

The 70-year-old painting was found on the remains of a house previously owned by Arabs, which was part of the village of Al-Qastal, captured by the IDF in April 1948 during operation 'Nachshon', and abandoned by its Arab population after heavy losses to both sides.

During the battle, Abd al-Qadr al-Husseini, leader of the Arab forces in the Jerusalem area, was killed, and the well-known Qastal Castle was conquered, it is now considered a popular heritage site.

On the remains of the house, a main road was paved and a commercial center was built. Construction work was carried out on the site, during which a stone fence collapsed to reveal the remains of the house and the mural.

The mural was drawn to resemble the front page of the "Al HaMishmar" newspaper, published in Israel between 1943 and 1995.

The murla's headline reads: "The village of Qalunya was conquered; the Qastal is in our hands," alongside a painting of IDF forces climbing the castle fortress.

On the left side of the mural is a sinking ship with the title - "A ship sinking in Bari, Italy - an Arab weapons ship, along with a drawing an armed IDF soldier.

It seems the mural was painted by a soldier who participated in the battle for Al-Qastal between April 3-9, and later in the capture of the village of Qalunya located 6 kilometres (3.7 mi) west of Jerusalem.

The mural will be removed whole, and put into safe storage until Mevaseret Zion will finish building its Heritage Center, at which point the mural will be housed there permanently.

In the meantime, the Council for Conservation of Heritage Sites is looking for the soldier who painted the mural, or any of his unit members who could perhaps name the original artist.

"We assume the mural was painted by a soldier who was part of the battle of Al-Qastal and Qalunya," said the Head of the Mevaseret Zion municipality, Yoram Shimon, "It is possible that the soldier served in the Palmach or the Etzioni Brigade that captured the castle and guarded it after a difficult battle."

"The soldier painted the mural on an Arab house that was buried and destroyed." added Shimon, " we estimate the painting was buried for over 70 years ago. This is a very important historical finding. There are not many such findings in this area. We would love to find out who painted the painting, which if alive - should be around 90 today. "

Omri Shalmon, executive director of the Council for Conservation of Heritage Sites in Israel, said: "We consider preserving the legacy of the struggle for Israeli independence and its protection a very important value, and we will work together with the local council to rescue and preserve the discovery."

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To prevent mass gatherings, NIS 500 fine for bonfires during Lag BaOmer

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NIS 500 fine for bonfires during Lag BaOmer
Traditional mass prayers at Mount Meron downsized drastically, with only 3 rabbis and less than 200 authorized participants; Police to patrol throughout holiday to prevent any mass gatherings
Gilad Cohen| Published: 05.10.20 , 21:56

As part of the ban on all traditional bonfires for the holiday of Lag BaOmer, Israel Police announced that any person found violating the ban will be fined NIS 500.

The ban on the traditional Jewish festivities during the holiday which traditionally saw a quarter of a million people participating at bonfire lighting at the grave of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, is part of the continued effort to curb the spread of coronavirus.

"As part of our continued efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus in Israel and with updated emergency regulations, this year, restrictions will be put in place during the Lag BaOmer holiday to prevent mass gatherings which could pose a public health risk and hinder continued measures taken to ensure public health," a police spokesman said.
Only three rabbis representing the three different Jewish communities Haredi, Sephardi and the National-Religious community all represented by political parties, with only 50 to 150 participants will be allowed at the gravesite for the traditional bonfire celebration.

Mount Meron and the surrounding area will be closed off to the public.
Police units will patrol the area by car and from the air and stop any cars and buses heading to the site, forces will also prevent bonfires throughout the country to ensure

there are no violations of the bonfire ban or prevent any mass gatherings during the holiday.

The new regulations will be in place from Monday, May 11 until Wednesday, May 13.

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Words of Moses Hebrew healing prayer becomes global music sensation

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Hebrew healing prayer becomes global sensation
When his grandmother fell ill, Yair Levi searched for a prayer and found the words of Moses beseeching God for his sister's well being, and found the tune he composed resonating throughout the world as the coronavirus pandemic spread
Yitzhak Tessler| Published: 05.10.20 , 17:44

A Hebrew prayer put to music by an Israeli wishing for his grandmother's recovery from illness has become a global sensation with more than one hundred covers, thousands of shares and hundreds of thousands of views.

Composer Yair Levi took the words of "Al na r la" (please God heal her) - Moses' prayer for God to heal his sister after she contracted leprosy - and put them to music. And as the coronavirus swept across the globe, the song struck a chord around the world.

"My grandmother had an illness unrelated to coronavirus, but the pandemic obviously affected everyone, myself included," says 30-year-old Levi. "Due the epidemic, I received the names of people in need of prayer and a list of about 20 names accumulated on my fridge. Every day, I would say a prayer for the sick, and I searched for words and a tune related to medicine."

"I took my guitar and composed the music for it on the spot, and since I have a recording studio in my home, I recorded the song within a week."
Levi then approached Shai Sol - a vocalist internationally renowned for singing the Psalms.
"In quarantine and with no way to actually meet, she recorded herself, " Levi says. And then he posted the song on social media.
"It was amazing, we received many responses and translations," he says.

The song has been translated into and sung in Spanish, Chinese, French, Arabic, Hindu, Swahili, Russian and German.
"Immediately after we released the song, it was shared online by evangelist Christians, Jewish communities, and even the Friends of the IDF organization," Levi says.

"We have received cover versions from all over the world, including from a Lebanese singer, and on Saturday evening, I received three new covers from Namibia, Africa, India,

and a Brazilian singer, Fortunee Joyce Safdie, who performed the song live on her Instagram page," Levi says.

"Getting so many messages from people all around the world is incredible. If I have the privilege to spread prayer around the world, to me it's just crazy. <mark>When people from all over the world translate and sing a prayer for health, it feels like it is literally the end of times.</mark>"

During his military service, Levi became closer to Judaism, eventually marrying a woman from a religious home at the age of 24.

<mark>Levi</mark>, who served in an <mark>elite IDF commando</mark> unit during the 2010 clashes onboard a flotilla attempting to reach Gaza, describes the incident as a turning point. Ten soldiers from Levi's unit were wounded.

After the incident, he decided to join an IDF officer course, but eventually opted to abandon a military career at the age of 26 in favor of a musical one.

"I spoke with my commander who told me people often regret what they had not done," Levi says. "It opened my eyes and I realized that the flotilla incident pushed me in the direction of the course, but my real dream was to make music and become a singer."

And in fact, two days after leaving the service, Levi was on his way to climb Everest, which inspired his first album.

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<mark>Israel sees another drop in virus cases but death toll rises</mark>
The Health Ministry says since the evening hours <mark>only four new</mark> COVID-19 have been recorded, with <mark>65 intubated patients</mark>; Jerusalem, Bnei Brak still atop of Israeli cities with highest number of infections
Ynet| Published: <mark>05.10.20</mark> , 11:48

<mark>As of Sunday morning, there are 16,458 confirmed</mark> coronavirus cases in Israel, a <mark>rise of only four</mark> diagnoses <mark>since the evening</mark> hours, while the <mark>death toll</mark> currently standing at <mark>248</mark>, health officials confirmed.

Of the latest figures, <mark>74 people are in serious condition, with 65 patients needing ventilator support</mark>, an additional 2% drop over the past 24 hours.
At least 52 COVID-19 patients are in moderate condition and the rest have mild symptoms.

The Health Ministry said there are 4,<mark>826 people currently infected</mark> with the pathogen, while <mark>11,384 patients have recovered</mark> from the disease.

Over the past 24 hours, medical officials conducted 3,650 coronavirus tests.
Jerusalem still has the highest number of coronavirus cases with 3,635 confirmed
infections, followed by the ultra-Orthodox city of Bnei Brak with 2,895.
The city of Tel Aviv has so far recorded 547 coronavirus cases.
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The ultra-Orthodox cty of Beit Shemesh and the Haredi settlement of Modi'in-Illit have
recorded 513 and 412 cases, respectively.

05.10.20 – Su - - -
China posted 30-page article that refutes 24 'lies' by US politicians over virus

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China refutes 24 'lies' by U.S. politicians over coronavirus
Article posted by Foreign Ministry rejects reports of virus hitting America before
confirmed infections in Wuhan, pathogen being lab-made and that whistle-blower Li
Wenliang was never silenced by authorities
Reuters| Published: 05.10.20 , 23:00

China has issued a lengthy rebuttal of what it said were 24 "preposterous allegations" by
some leading U.S. politicians over its handling of the new coronavirus outbreak.

The Chinese foreign ministry has dedicated most of its press briefings over the past week
to rejecting accusations by U.S. politicians, especially Secretary of State Mike Pompeo,
that China had withheld information about the new coronavirus and that it had originated
in a laboratory in the city of Wuhan.

A 30-page, 11,000-word article posted on the ministry website on Saturday night
repeated and expanded on the refutations made during the press briefings, and began by
invoking Abraham Lincoln, the 19th century U.S. president.
"As Lincoln said, you can fool some of the people all the time and fool all the people
some of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time," it said in the prologue.
The article also cited media reports that said Americans had been infected with the virus
before the first case was confirmed in Wuhan. There is no evidence to suggest that this is
the case.

Keen to quash U.S. suggestions that the virus was deliberately created or somehow
leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the article said that all evidence shows the
virus is not man-made and that the institute is not capable of synthesizing a new
coronavirus.
"Timely" warnings
The article also provided a timeline of how China had provided information to the
international community in a "timely", "open and transparent" manner to rebuke U.S.
suggestions that it had been slow to sound the alarm.

Despite China's repeated assurances, concerns about the timeliness of its information have persisted in some quarters.

A report by Der Spiegel magazine last Friday cited Germany's BND spy agency as saying that China's initial attempt to hold back information had cost the world four to six weeks that could have been used to fight the virus.

The article rejected Western criticism of Beijing's handling of the case of Li Wenliang, a 34-year-old doctor who had tried to raise the alarm over the outbreak of the new virus in Wuhan. His death from COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the virus, prompted an outpouring of rage and grief across China.

Its ministry article said Li was not a "whistle-blower" and he was never arrested, contrary to many Western reports.

However, the article did not mention that Li was reprimanded by the police for "spreading rumors". Though Li was later named among "martyrs" mourned by China, an investigation into his case also drew criticism online after it merely suggested the reprimand against him be withdrawn.

Rejecting suggestions by U.S. President Donald Trump and Pompeo that the new coronavirus should be called the "Chinese virus" or "Wuhan virus", the article cited documents from the World Health Organization to say the name of a virus should not be country-specific.

05.10.20 – Su - - -
Dozens dead in Syria as Turkey opposition tries to remove Assad from power

05.10.20
Dozens dead in militant attack on Syrian troops
At least 35 reportedly killed on both sides in clashes between government forces and al-Qaeda-linked Horas al-Din group in Hama province
Associated Press| Published: 05.10.20 , 19:12

Al-Qaeda-linked fighters attacked Syrian government positions Sunday on the edge of the country's last rebel stronghold, triggering intense clashes that killed nearly three dozen combatants across both sides, opposition activists said.

The fighting was among the worst since early March, when an agreement between Turkey and Russia halted the Syrian government's three-month air and ground campaign into rebel-held northwestern Idlib province. Sunday's clashes took place in neighboring Hama province, parts of which are still under rebel control.

Russia is a main backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad, while Turkey backs opposition fighters trying to remove him from power. Russia and Turkey have become the main power brokers in war-torn Syria in recent years.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said members of the al-Qaeda-linked group known as Horas al-Din attacked government forces in the Ghab plain area. It said the fighting left 21 troops and 13 Horas al-Din members dead.
The Observatory and an Idlib-based activist, Taher al-Omar, said insurgents also took control of the village of Tanjara, and that Syrian government forces were heavily shelling the area in an apparent preparation for a counteroffensive.

There was no word from Syrian state media on the fighting.
Horas al-Din are hardcore al-Qaeda elements who broke away from Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the strongest insurgent group in the Idlib enclave. Horas al-Din, Arabic for "Guardians of Religion," reject any cease-fire with the government.

Syrian troops now control much of the country, with the help of Assad's main backers Russia and Iran. The conflict, which began in March 2011, has killed more than 400,000 people.