



**DAN STOLEBARGER**  
**WEEK OF JUNE 9, 2015**



# ISIS EYES GOLAN

- ❖ The Islamic State released a clip this week warning rebel groups on the Syrian side of the Golan Heights — on the border with Israel — that the organization has set its sights on the area and plans to control it.
- ❖ This is the first time the group has publicly stated its intention to take over the Syrian Golan, currently primarily in the hands of various Syrian rebel groups.
- ❖ “I advise you to beware,” an IS fighter is seen in the clip as saying, according to a Channel 2 translation. “Why are you fighting under an unknown flag? Why do you not adhere to the laws of Allah and fly his flag?” (*The Times of Israel*)



# SYRIA ARMY / HEZBOLLAH

The Syrian army is a threat that has ceased to exist for the coming decade and the regime is in “the most grave predicament” since the outbreak of war in March 2011, a senior Israeli army officer said Wednesday in a briefing.

Hezbollah, the Assad regime’s ally, has lost 700 men since the start of the fighting and 100 over the past two weeks alone, he said. The officer characterized Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, who has delivered four saber-rattling speeches over the past eight days, as suffering from “no small amount of embarrassment” in Lebanon, and said that Israel has seen the transfer of Hezbollah troops from the south - the border with Israel - to Syria.

“That points to their distress,” he stated

*The Times of Israel's Daily Edition*



# ISRAEL WILL NOT TOLERATE ROCKET FIRE

Ya'alon: Israel will not tolerate sporadic rocket fire from Gaza

Defense Minister warns Gaza terrorists not to "test Israel's patience" after rockets explode in Israel's south

IAF bombs Gaza targets in retaliation

Islamic State-linked group claims responsibility for rocket fire, but Israel views Hamas responsible.



# ASHKELON HIT

- ❖ A day after a rocket fired from Gaza hit Israel's south on Saturday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu leveled harsh criticism at the international community for its silence over a recent spate of rocket attacks while warning that a strong reprisal was forthcoming.
- ❖ At the start of the weekly cabinet meeting, Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that he hasn't heard a word of condemnation from the world about three rocket attacks from Gaza over the past two weeks. Netanyahu says it will be "interesting to see if this silence continues when we use all our strength in exercising our right to defend ourselves."
- ❖ He vowed that the "hypocrisy that is spreading around the world will not restrain us from defending the citizens of Israel. That is how we have operated and that is how we will continue to operate."



# ISRAEL - SAN DIEGO

- ❖ No nation has invested more in water technology than Israel. With California facing chronic drought, major cooperative measures are taking root and Israeli technology may be just the solution to help save California from drying up completely.
- ❖ Parched California is already working with Israeli industrialists, government experts and academics on advanced water technologies and long-term strategies to lessen the effects of its severe drought.
- ❖ One example is the \$1 billion ocean-water desalination plant Israel's IDE Technologies is building to provide 50 million gallons of water daily in the San Diego area starting in November.



# SAUDIS & IRAN

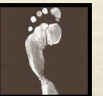
- ❖ The survey, conducted by the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, provides Israelis with a rare glimpse inside Saudi Arabia and may change Israeli perceptions about the desert kingdom. The two countries are longtime foes with no diplomatic relations.
- ❖ The poll found that 53% of Saudis named Iran and 22% named the Islamic State group as their main adversary, while only 18% said Israel. The poll, conducted in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, surveyed 506 Saudis over the phone and had a margin of error of 5 percentage points. It was carried out over the past two weeks, starting in late May.
- ❖ The poll also showed that most Saudis think their country should seek nuclear weapons if Iran acquires an atomic bomb. *Israel Hayom*



# Palestinians advertise soccer game with photos of slain soldiers



Pictures of Lt. Hadar Goldin and Staff Sgt. Oron Shaul, whose remains are believed to be in Hamas hands, on poster for match between the two cities where they were killed  
"The two teams of kidnapping soldiers compete in the Gaza Cup final," says ad. (*Israel Hayom*)





# US SUPREME COURT SIDES WITH OBAMA

- ❖ US supreme court rules boy born in Jerusalem can't have Israel on his passport.
- ❖ Justices affirm president's exclusive power to recognize foreign governments as US has not acknowledged sovereignty of any nation over Jerusalem since 1948. (US news)
- ❖ So president Obama insisted that Jerusalem is NOT in Israel necessarily. And the U.S. Supreme Court decided that Obama in this case is right. Well, let me remind you all the words of Nehemiah to the Arabs who criticised him for returning to his historical capital "...20 So I answered them, and said to them, "...The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem..." (Nehemiah 2:20)



# ANTI-SEMITISM in FRANCE

- ❖ "It's true there are schools [in France] where you cannot teach the Holocaust," Sarkozy said during an open discussion at the 15th Annual Herzliya Conference, according to a journalist from French BFM TV.
- ❖ French law prohibits Holocaust denial in the classroom.
- ❖ The former French president, who left office in 2012 after losing to current President Francois Hollande, apparently insisted three times during his 45 minutes of discussion that France is not an antisemitic country.
- ❖ Recent reports have indicated that as many as three antisemitic attacks are committed against Jews in the country every day. The number of French Jews undergoing the immigration process to Israel doubled in 2014 compared to the year before. (**Algemeiner**)

