



DAN STOLEBARGER
LAST WEEK OF DECEMBER 2015





HGE

Headlines

David's Sling defense system passes final test

State of the art system, which intercepts medium- to long-range rockets and cruise missiles, is slated to become operational in 2016 • Israeli Air Force to receive two of the four David's Sling batteries over the next four months.

Abbas: 'State of Palestine' passports to be issued in 2016

"We no longer accept the use of the name Palestinian Authority from anybody," says PA President Mahmoud Abbas During official visit to Greece • Greek parliament recognizes state of Palestine in unanimous nonbinding parliamentary vote.

Child killer - The new Palestinian superhero

Samir Kuntar who murdered a four-year-old Israeli by smashing her head with the butt of his rifle, is the newest PA - Fatah hero and role model

ISIS - harvesting of human organs ... in a previously undisclosed ruling by the group's Islamic scholars, raising concerns that the violent extremist group may be trafficking in body parts. The ruling, contained in a Jan. 31, 2015, document reviewed by Reuters, says taking organs from a living captive to save a Muslim's life, even if it is fatal for the captive, is permissible.



Samir Kuntar

Hezbollah says Israeli airstrike in Damascus killed Kuntar, who was behind 1979 attack that killed four Israelis

Samir Kuntar is a Lebanese terrorist who in 1969 infiltrated Israel and murdered four Israelis. Kuntar murdered his youngest victim, four-year-old Einat Haran, by repeatedly smashing her head with his rifle butt.

After being released from Israeli prison in 2006, Kuntar joined Hezbollah and was planning terror attacks against Israel when he was killed in Syria last week.

Israeli minister: "If something happens to him, no civilized person can be sorry"



Rockets Launched from the North



- ❖ Hours after the death of Hezbollah terrorist Samir Kuntar, who was targeted on Sunday in an Israeli Air Force strike, rockets from Lebanon landed in northern Israel. There were no injuries reported.
- ❖ Alarms sounded throughout the city of Nahariya and several Israeli towns located near the Lebanon border on Sunday night when at least three rockets landed in an open area. There were no injuries reported.
- ❖ As tensions mount, farmers told to keep away from northern border. Defense establishment taking Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah's threats seriously, also orders soldiers stationed along northern border to take extra precautions



Illegitimate Government of Fake People

If presidential elections were held today in the PA, any Hamas candidate would win a clear victory against Abbas.

Two thirds of the Arabs living in Judea and Samaria, and in the Gaza Strip continue to demand the resignation of PA Chairman Abbas; a growing majority supports a return to an armed Intifada; and a growing majority rejects the two-state solution.



Justifiable Terror?

'Justifiable' Terror Needs Justifiable Response from Israel

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas on Monday referred to the last three months of violence as a "justified popular uprising." two-thirds of Palestinians support knife attacks and say an intifada would 'serve Palestinian national interests in ways that negotiations could not,' while three-quarters oppose involvement of 'young school girls' in stabbings.

(Response must be swift, decisive and unapologetic - removal of the enemies from Jewish land! Why, after a PA terrorist crashed his car into a Jerusalem bus stop, injuring 14 commuters, was the government's only remedy for terror to fortify 300 bus stops?)



Naftali Bennett

Naftali Bennett told the students establishing a Palestinian state would not end the threat of Palestinian terrorism.

"Palestinians do not engage in terrorism because they have lost hope, but because they have hope, they are hoping for a Palestinian state. It is a central part of their multistage plan."

Palestinian terrorism will disappear once that hope is gone, he said. Until then, it will be prevented only by strong deterrence, he said.

"We need to stop explaining away terrorism," Bennett said, claiming that those who look for the causes behind the terrorism are in a de facto way, justifying it.

"When a rapist rapes, we don't try to understand him, we just punish him," Bennett said. The same thing has to happen here, he added.

"Either you will be here, or ISIS, will be here," Education Minister Naftali Bennett said to students at Ariel University, which is located in the Samaria.



100,000 Hezbollah Rockets

- ❖ Hezbollah has more than 100,000 rockets in its arsenal, Israeli Maj. Gen. (res.) Amos Gilad told Israeli news website nrg in an exclusive interview on Friday.
- ❖ Gilad, who is director of the Political-Military Affairs Bureau at the Israeli Defense Ministry, also told nrg that the Lebanese-based terrorist group has been building up its capacities for naval warfare, including acquiring Russian anti-ship P-800 Oniks missiles, also known as the Yakhont. These missiles can be used against maritime and land targets, but also offshore gas rigs, said Gilad, a reference to Israel's nascent and lucrative natural gas infrastructure.
- ❖ Gilad said Hezbollah was uninterested in attacking Israel at the current time, both deterred by Israel and also bogged down in fighting on behalf of Syrian President Bashar Assad in the Syrian civil war. There, Gilad said, the group has lost hundreds of fighters, echoing a recent Israeli report which suggested up to 1,500 Hezbollah fighters had already died in Syria.



Hassan Rouhani

- ❖ At the 29th International Islamic Unity Conference in Tehran, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, viewed by many as a moderate politician, called on Muslims around the world to focus together on fighting Israel.
- ❖ Muslim countries around the world must focus on defeating Israel, their common enemy, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani stated at a global Islamic unity conference.



ISIS Threatens Israel

- ❖ Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi: "The Israelis will soon see us in Palestine
- ❖ ISIS leader warns Israel: He threatened Israel by saying, "we haven't forgotten you" and "we are getting closer to you" every day. "God caused the Jews of the world to gather in Israel, and the war against them has become easy. It is the obligation of every Muslim to carry out Jihad," he declared.
- ❖ "The Israelis thought that we forgot Palestine and that they had distracted us from it. That is not the case. ... Palestine will not be your land or your home. It will be a graveyard for you," says Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in recording released Saturday.



Two Palestinian men stabbed two Israelis outside Jerusalem's Old City on Wed., before security forces opened fire and killed them. Rabbi Reuben Birmajer later died of wounds sustained in the stabbing. Also killed in the attack was Ofer Ben Ari, 46, who died after being mistakenly shot by police amid the chaos of the attack. Another Israeli was badly wounded in the terror attack.

In covering the attack, after the two Israelis succumbed to their injuries, CNN's headline read: "Four die in violent stabbing at Jaffa Gate." CBS, meanwhile, initially wrote: "2 Palestinians killed after stabbing attack in Jerusalem."



And here's the Washington Post headlines!





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A new twist on 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town!'



Open Letter to Obama about Christmas Bells in the Middle East

Dear President Obama,

In your recent [statement on persecuted Christians at Christmas](#) you stated:

In some areas of the Middle East where church bells have rung for centuries on Christmas Day, this year they will be silent; this silence bears tragic witness to the brutal atrocities committed against these communities by ISIL.

When you say that "church bells have rung for centuries" you are not speaking the truth. Bells have rung in Syria and Iraq for not much more than a hundred years, at most.

As determined by Islamic law, church bells did not sound throughout the middle East for more than a thousand years from the 7th century conquests until modern times (except under the Crusaders). This was due to the conditions set by the [Pact of the Caliph Umar](#), by which Christians of Syria surrendered to Islamic conquest in the 7th century AD. In this pact the Christians agreed that "We will not sound the bells in our churches." Churches in regions controlled by Muslims used [semantrons](#) (also called [nakos](#)) instead of the forbidden church bells. Examples of these are still visible in Jerusalem to this day, e.g. see [here](#). The pact of Umar is an example of what is known as a *dhimma* pact. Christians living in regions conquered by Islam were known as *dhimmis*. As *dhimmis* they were not permitted to display their religion in public. The silence of the bells was just one of many [restrictions](#) imposed upon Christians by Islamic law.

Hamas, when it took control of Gaza, also re-[implemented dhimma conditions](#) over Christians, and ISIL has now done the same in regions it controls.

The silence of church bells for more than a thousand years across the Middle East bears witness to the conquest and long-standing suppression of Christian societies under Islamic rule. Recent genocidal attacks on Christians by ISIL are sadly but the end-stage of a long series of abuses.

President Obama, it is good that you have desired to speak up for persecuted Christians, but when you do so, please speak the truth. Please do not whitewash history, because to do so partners with abuse.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Durie, BA, BTh, DipTh, PhD, FAHA

27 December 2015



NEW!!! HGE - Witness Wear



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Shalom Friends

It's seems as though 2015 has zipped by as we approach 2016. It's been quite a year for Holy Ground Exploration (HGE) as well as us personally. HGE was birthed just seven short months ago, although we have been on the path to launching HGE for many years, without even knowing we were. As with the birth of any ministry there have been some birthing pains but they are followed by the joy of working for the Lord.

The Christmas season and closing of 2015 seems to cause many of us to check the rear view mirror. Many of you have taken this journey of faith with us and have provided an unbelievable amount of support through prayer, wise counsel and financial support. We can't tell you how much it has meant to us to be surrounded by so many great people. The Lord has placed many people in our lives in preparation for launching HGE. It's this very reason that we know the Lord has been planning HGE for a long time. He gave us pillars on which to stand before He asked us to step out in FAITH.

As you reflect on the year and get ready to close 2015 with ministry provisions, we ask that you consider HGE. As a new ministry HGE operates on a shoestring budget. The Lord does much with little but He also blesses those that bless Israel. We know there are many ministries vying for donations but prayer is free and very much needed. If you can't support HGE financially, please, support us in prayer; after all prayer is the most precious gift and the most powerful. To support HGE financially visit our webpage at www.holygroundexplorations.com or email Sharon Stolebarger at sharon@holygroundexploration.com. Donations can easily be made online via PayPal or checks. These donations are tax deductible for those in the United States.

Shalom

Dan and Sharon Stolebarger