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Middle East Update



DAN STOLEBARGER

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HEADLINES

Hezbollah: Russia is supplying us with heavy weapons

"The Russians are our allies and give us weapons," says Hezbollah commander quoted on The Daily Beast. A different Hezbollah commander said Russia has not imposed any restrictions on how Hezbollah can use Russian weapons. This means the arms could be used against Israel, he said.

Hide the Kippah

Following anti-Semitic stabbing, French Jews urged to hide kippah
Day after Turkish teen attacks Jewish teacher with a machete, head of Marseille Jewish community urges Jews to hide their Jewish identity. "It really hurts, but I don't want anyone to die."

Iran releases American sailors after standoff

Kerry sends thanks; Biden denies US apologized after Iran state media quotes Revolutionary Guards as claiming US said sorry for intrusion into Iranian territorial waters





Iran airs clip of captive US sailor apologizing for 'mistake'
State TV releases footage of Americans surrendering on their knees



Iran's Cartoon Contest

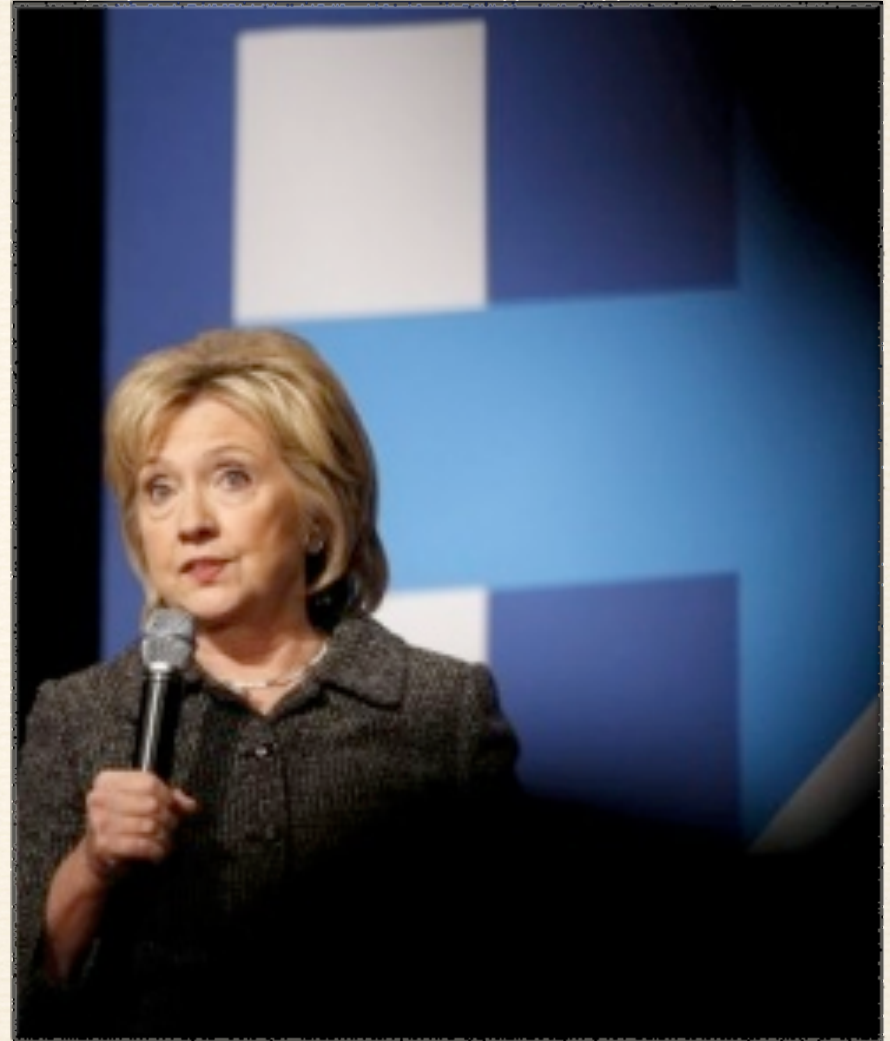


Israeli officials urge UN to condemn Iran Holocaust cartoon contest
First place in Holocaust denial comic competition wins \$50,000;
Knesset speaker conveys Israel's 'revulsion' to secretary general.



Hillary's E-Mail

- ❖ Former Secretary of State and current Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton was advised in 2011 to force Israel to resume peace negotiations by secretly fomenting a Palestinian uprising.
- ❖ The plan was revealed as part of an investigation into Clinton's private emails while she served as secretary of state.
- ❖ In a Dec. 18, 2011 email, former U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, who was serving as an adviser to Clinton at the time, suggested that the U.S. covertly generate Palestinian unrest in an effort to push Jerusalem to jump-start the stalled peace talks.
- ❖ Pickering described the effort as a potential "game changer in the region."



ISIS Manual



- ❖ The Islamic State group has issued a manual describing how to carry out "lone wolf" terror attacks. The manual is a reworked version of a pamphlet originally issued by al-Qaida. According to the British newspaper The Sun, the updated manual is titled "Safety and Security Guidelines for Lone Wolf Mujahedeen and Small Cells."
- ❖ The 64-page guide instructs would-be terrorists on how to carry out plots without being detected. Among other things, it includes hints on which encrypted mobile phone apps to use and which to avoid.
- ❖ The manual urges would-be terrorists to assume the appearance of Christians by shaving their beards and wearing crucifixes.



Tel Aviv Terrorist Eliminated

- ❖ Nashat Milhem, the gunman who killed three Israelis last week in Tel Aviv, was shot and killed by Israeli forces in northern Israel on Friday afternoon.
- ❖ He was located near his hometown Arara area. Initial reports said he had been “neutralized.” It was later confirmed that he had been killed.
- ❖ Milhem was tracked down to the area where he was hiding out, opened fire on the forces, and was shot dead, Israeli security officials said in a statement. An inaccurate initial report said that he had been shot in a mosque in Umm al-Fahm.
- ❖ Channel 2 reported that the forces had sought to capture him alive, but were fired upon by Milhem who was using the same weapon he used for last Friday’s shootings.



PMW - Nashat Melhem

Abbas' Fatah movement posted an uncensored version of the picture of dead terrorist murderer Nashat Melhem lying in a pool of blood. It also praised the killer of 3 as a "Martyr" and congratulated him on its official Facebook page:

Text: "Nashat Melhem died as a **Martyr** (*Shahid*) after an armed confrontation in the courtyard of a mosque in Umm Al-Fahm on blessed Friday, **congratulations and may Allah receive you in Heaven**"

[emphasis added,
Official Facebook page of the Fatah Movement,
Jan. 8, 2016]



Facebook Fiasco



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State of the Union - Reflections

- ❖ U.S. President Barack Obama just received his own personal lesson in Iranian ingratitude. Mere hours before his State of the Union address before Congress, a dramatic incident was unfolding in the Persian Gulf. Iran seized two U.S. Navy boats and 10 sailors (among them one woman). The video subsequently released by Iran, of the captive American sailors, on their knees with hands behind their heads, can only be titled one thing -- humiliation. Obama wanted an Iranian legacy. He's getting it in spades. Obama wanted a nuclear deal from the Iranians but is being bamboozled by Tehran instead.
- ❖ The American president found a great way to address the embarrassing incident during his speech -- he simply ignored it. In his speech Obama forgot to mention the red lines he has ignored. He forgot to discuss his helplessness in Syria and also forgot to mention the serious consequences of the migrant crisis (beyond the poor and downtrodden drowning at sea, there are also terrorists and rapist crossing the border).
- ❖ Upon concluding his final State of the Union speech, Obama the swan officially became a lame duck. Actually, he is almost a lame duck. He still needs to stand up and lift economic sanctions from the Iranians. Maybe in his eyes this is the best way to thank them for treating those 10 sailors so well. He and his secretary of state, John Kerry, might just call the incident a diplomatic achievement.



Caroline Glick

- ❖ Keynote speech at Beit Orot Annual Dinner in New York
- ❖ On January 9, 2016, I gave the keynote address at Beit Orot's annual dinner in New York.
- ❖ Here's is the video of the speech.
- ❖ <https://youtu.be/TOIKx1lkqk0>





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