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Middle East Update



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HEADLINES

Khamenei airs Holocaust denial video on international Remembrance

Day ... Khamenei has expressed doubts about the historicity of the Holocaust in the past." The Holocaust is an event whose reality is uncertain and if it has happened, it's uncertain how it has happened,"

Netanyahu vows harsh response to any Hamas attacks

"If we are attacked via tunnels from the Gaza Strip, we will retaliate harshly against Hamas, with greater force than that exercised during Operation Protective Edge. I hope it doesn't come to that, but ... I suggest no one tests us," prime minister says

Tunnel collapse in Gaza - Killed Terrorists!

Eight Hamas terrorists were reported missing after a tunnel collapsed in northern Gaza following several days of heavy rain and flooding. Israel asserts that in the aftermath of Operation Protective Edge, Hamas has begun efforts to restore its military capability by building tunnels into Israel as well as replenishing its arsenal of rockets. (When IDF does Nothing, Nature does it Best!)



Headlines

100 Billion - Iran said Monday it now has access to more than \$100 billion worth of frozen overseas assets following the implementation of the landmark nuclear deal with world powers.

Crazy Crazy Crazy - Kerry stresses ending incitement in call with Abbas
While praising PA leader's 'commitment to nonviolence,' secretary calls for ending 'inflammatory rhetoric'

BDS Event to Be Held by Columbia Students Demanding The University 'End Investments in Israeli Apartheid'.

We demand that Columbia University end its investments in Israeli Apartheid.
We call upon the Columbia community to support Palestinian human rights.
We stand united for justice.



Gaza Prepares for War

- ❖ After quite a few attempts at concealment and denial, Hamas's military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, on Thursday released the names of "the seven heroes, men of Allah" who were killed earlier in the week in the collapse of an attack tunnel in the Tufah neighborhood in the northeastern part of Gaza City, only a few hundred yards from the Israeli border.
- ❖ During the funeral procession for Hamas members who were killed when the tunnel they were working in caved in, the roof of a nearby building collapsed under the excessive weight of some overly-zealous onlookers.
- ❖ Perhaps there's a message here that the Palestinians aren't getting.



https://youtu.be/LQpA7TPL4_4



Anti-Semitism



- ❖ 25% of Israeli Jews fear another Holocaust, poll shows
- ❖ World Zionist Organization poll also shows that Israelis worry about their safety when traveling abroad, and 65% say they play down their Israeli/Jewish identity. Two-thirds say European governments not effective in fighting anti-Semitism.
- ❖ Another worrying number also emerged from the poll: 25% of Israelis believe there is reason to fear that another Holocaust will be perpetrated against the Jewish people, and 24% believe there is a chance that the State of Israel will cease to exist.



Golan Heights

- ❖ 'Israel will never leave Golan Heights, no matter what'
- ❖ Israel will never leave the Golan Heights, no matter what diplomatic settlement is reached in Syria, Foreign Ministry Director General Dore Gold told a gathering in Jerusalem on Sunday of Israeli ambassadors from around the world.
- ❖ Foreign Ministry Director General Dore Gold tells gathering in Jerusalem of Israeli ambassadors from around the world: Iran is more dangerous than Islamic State group and Israel has no desire to become involved in Syria conflict, Gold reiterates.



The Facebook Nation

- ❖ "The most dangerous nation in the Middle East acting against Israel is the state of Facebook," said the former head of the IDF Military Intelligence Directorate on Friday, according to Hebrew news website nrg.
- ❖ "It has a lot more power than anybody who's operating an armed force," said Amos Yadlin, who is also the executive director at the Tel Aviv-based Institute for National Security Studies. "Unlike before, there's no longer an existential military threat facing Israel. Rather, it's a strategic threat."
- ❖ Yadlin said there was not enough being invested in confronting the scourge of anti-Israel material, including antisemitism and incitement to violence against Israelis, circulating on social media.
- ❖ Public Security and Information Minister Gilad Erdan, meanwhile, said the government had set aside NIS 100 million to "develop solutions to the battle on social media,"



Remember: Land for Peace

- ❖ "It's appropriate that the Knesset, which made the decision [to evacuate], know how to remember it and remind visitors of the communities of Gush Katif and northern Samaria," Edelstein said.
- ❖ The statue, created by sculptor Aharon Shabo, is a miniature copy in bronze of a statue erected at the Gush Katif Center in Nitzan, and depicts a palm tree growing between two halves of a Star of David.
- ❖ The statue symbolizes the crisis of the communities being uprooted and the ability to grow anew out of the schism. The side of the statue is inscribed with the names of the 21 Gush Katif and northern Samaria communities that were evacuated.





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