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Middle East Update



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WEEK 8 - FEBRUARY 25, 2016



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Headlines

Chief of staff decides soldiers will carry weapons on leave. Decision comes after off-duty Nahal Brigade soldier Staff Sgt. Tuvia Weissman was murdered in a terrorist attack on a weekend home.

Terrorism victims advocacy group: Benefits of having armed off-duty soldiers outweighs risk of stolen weapons.

Obama Visit Cuba to Avoid Netanyahu? Obama is to be the first US President in 80 years to visit Cuba, but the timing of the visit means he will miss AIPAC, Netanyahu in US.

In an interview with Israel Hayom, former Shin Bet Director Dichter said, "With wise actions, the defense establishment in general and the IDF in particular will be able to turn the tunnels in Gaza into the largest Hamas cemetery of all time.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement declared that a man killed Friday while trying to attack Israeli troops is "a heroic martyr."



London and Chicago



BDS



In an increasingly anti-Israel Europe, labeling could lead to sweeping damage to Israel's economy. Anti-Israel boycotts deflect attention from the real obstacles to peace, and from real opportunities to achieve it.



Quote of the Week

"This is the Jewish nation, the nation of Israel - and we, the Christians, must protect her, and protect the freedoms we Christians have here in Israel. We Christians should be protecting this holy land, which is the source of the Christian faith."

- Gabriel Naddaf, a spokesman for the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, speaking before the European Parliament for an emergency - Instead, anti-Semitic Europe has been actively helping Arabs to destroy the Jewish state!



Iran



- ❖ Millions of Iranians took to the streets last Thursday to celebrate the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Part of the event included the parading of mock "captured Americans." Protesters burned American and Israeli flags and chanted, "Death to America, Death to Israel!"
- ❖ Iran's supreme leader Khamenei awarded medals to navy commanders for capturing US sailors who entered Iranian territorial waters last month. A video was released showing one of the American sailors crying.



Iran's Cash Flow

- ❖ Iran pledges thousands of dollars for Palestinian terrorists. Tehran, flush with cash from sanctions relief, will give slain attackers' families \$7,000, envoy says, and \$30,000 to terrorists' families whose homes Israel demolishes
- ❖ Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday urged the world to condemn Iran for providing financial support to the families of Palestinian terrorists.
- ❖ The prime minister also called on the international community to denounce Palestinian incitement, which he said is the "number one cause of terrorism."



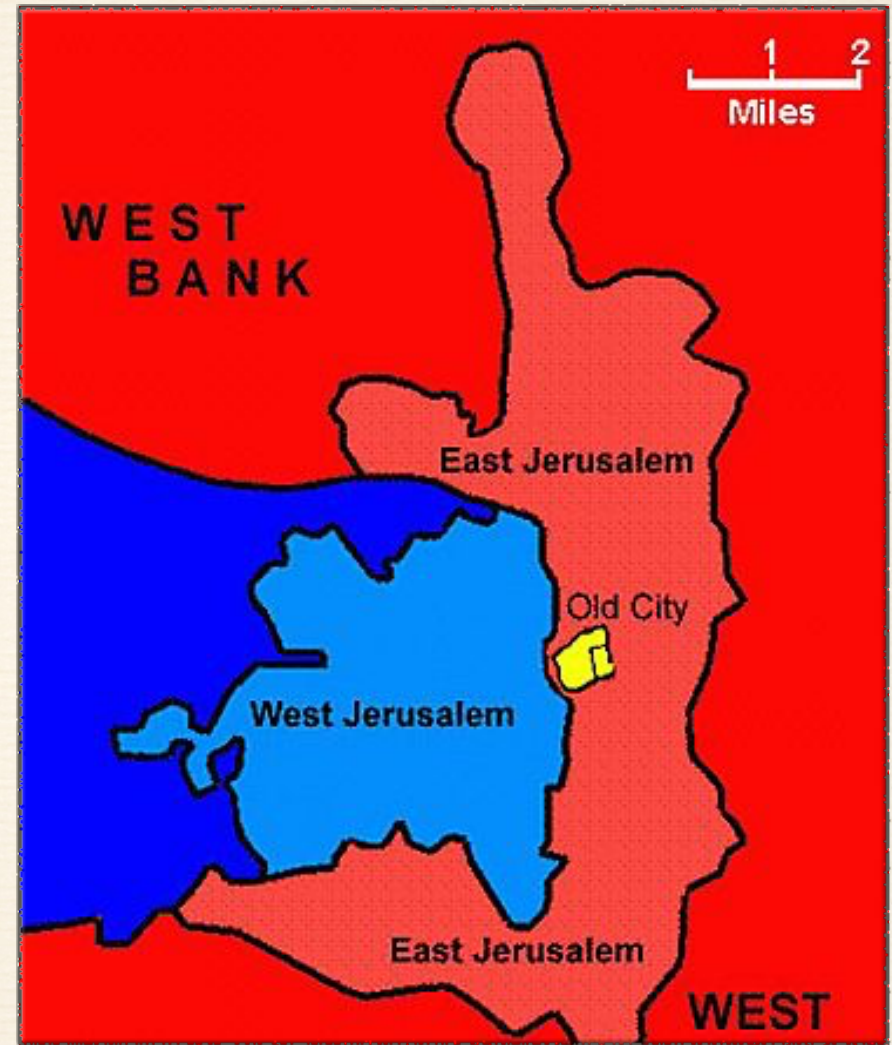
Double Standard

- ❖ The United States said Friday that Tuvia Yanai Weissman, an off-duty Israeli soldier who was stabbed to death in a Palestinian terror attack on Thursday, was an American citizen.
- ❖ Weissman, 21, who was married with a 4-month-old daughter, was laid to rest in Jerusalem on Friday morning.
- ❖ "We condemn in the strongest possible terms the attack that took place yesterday in the West Bank that resulted in the death of US citizen Tuvia Weisman," said the statement from Toner.
- ❖ "There is no justification for terrorism," the statement said. **"This horrific incident again underscores the need for all sides to reject violence, and urgently take steps to restore calm, reduce tensions, and bring an immediate end to the violence."**



Dividing Jerusalem

- ❖ Partition may bring about a demographic calamity in the city, diluting the Jewish majority rather than bolstering it, and ultimately make things worse for the city when it comes to security. Partitioning the city may limit access by Jewish and Christian worshippers to their holy sites, and areas that have seen Arab and Jews coexist in harmony, despite terrorism, may no longer be found.
- ❖ Let's stay away from those false prophets who advocate partition, and act to retain the unity of the city, conceptually and practically.
- ❖ Many years ago, Prime Minister Menachem Begin observed that "Jerusalem has watched over the people of Israel more than the people of Israel watched over Jerusalem." Now it is time to explain to our children how Jerusalem watched over us and why we owe it so much.



Benjamin Netanyahu

"We will protect Jerusalem, because Israel without Jerusalem is like a body without a heart," the prime minister said. "On this hill, 45 years ago, the united heart of our people began to beat again, with full power. Our heart will never be divided again."

The Battle for Jerusalem -
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