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Middle East Update



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BRUSSELS

Brussels bombings suspect arrested, others identified

Coordinated bombings in Brussels leave at least 31 dead and 260 wounded • Two suicide bombers at Brussels airport were reportedly brothers Khalid and Brahim El Bakraoui, third suspect caught on Wednesday • IS promises more "dark days" ahead for Europe

In Europe -- and in Israel as well -- people argue that the "reason" for terror is the "Zionist occupation" and "oppression" of the Palestinians • When an entire continent is in denial, it wakes up to find that Brussels has become "Brusselistan."



Headlines

Biden: US is watching Iran like a hawk

In AIPAC address, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden says Iran will never be allowed to resume a nuclear weapons program.

He went on to criticize unilateral Palestinian actions at the U.N. and calls out Palestinian Authority's silence on terrorism.

The VP then earned scattered boos from appreciative audience when he criticizes 'systematic' settlement expansion; Iran deal is good for Israel, he asserts.

Meanwhile Obama enjoys his Cuban vacation.



Gongging Up on Israel



- ❖ The administration's attempts to pressure Israel into creating a Palestinian state obviously have not been successful so far. So Kerry is looking for new ways to harangue the Israelis. Standing next to a group of European foreign ministers at the Paris press conference, Kerry said: "There's not any one country or one person who can resolve this. This is going to require the global community, it will require international support."



Food for Thought

By insisting on the two-state solution, US Presidents, most of the recent ones, have been violating Resolution 322 of the Joint House of Representatives (of the American People), which have clearly stated "That the United States of America favors the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people" and the other one that calls for the transfer of the US embassy to Jerusalem.

It seems that the will of the American people is disregarded to accommodate anti-Semitic drive of most US presidents and their handlers, shadowy puppet-masters in Saudi Arabia!



Abbas Update

Two-thirds of Palestinians want Abbas to resign
Poll finds that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is unpopular among his people, yet he does not appear to be under palpable domestic or international pressure to step down

"Abbas is weak, but his contenders are weak, too," pollster says. Abbas, who turns 81 this week, is seen as distant from his people. He frequently travels abroad on diplomatic missions and -- when in the West Bank -- rarely ventures out of his compound in the city of Ramallah. Palestinian analyst Hani al-Masri said Abbas, backed into a corner, is increasingly intolerant of criticism.

Abbas "has failed to achieve any of his goals, particularly having an independent state, and he has no alternative," said al-Masri. "Therefore, he tries to silence anyone who ... expresses his or her view."

So much money has been spent on "strengthening Palestinian institutions, economic and security prospects," yet nothing has changed.



Another Tunnel Collapse

- ❖ The collapse came days after another tunnel collapse near Rafah killed two people. Since January 10 tunnels have caved in and 14 people have been killed, according to Hamas figures.
- ❖ It is not clear what is causing the collapse of the tunnels or what their purpose is. Israeli officials have warned that Hamas has begun rebuilding its network of subterranean tunnels, some of which could extend into Israeli territory and be used for surprise attacks, as they were in 2014.
- ❖ Jerusalem says it is working on a secret technological solution to the problem. When asked if Israeli forces were causing the tunnel collapses earlier this year, an IDF commander would only say "God knows."



BRUSSEL Reactions

- ❖ Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz said Tuesday that surveillance in Muslim neighborhoods in the US must be intensified following the deadly bombings at Brussels.
- ❖ Echoing rival Donald Trump, Cruz said the US should stop the flow of refugees from countries where the Islamic State group has a significant presence. The Islamic State took credit for the attacks at the Brussels airport and a subway station that killed dozens Tuesday and wounded many more.
- ❖ "We need to empower law enforcement to patrol and secure Muslim neighborhoods before they become radicalized," the Texas senator said in a statement.



Solah



- ❖ His Last Supper
- ❖ Good Friday
- ❖ Resurrection Sunday
- ❖ Purim





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