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**Middle East Update**



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**WEEK OF MARCH 31, 2016**



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# Headlines

**PA - HAMAS:** Palestinian rival factions Fatah and Hamas have agreed to form a unity government and hold parliamentary elections within six months, a senior official said on Monday.

**TURKEY THREATS:** The Israeli statement said Israelis should avoid going to Turkey and, if already there, "depart as soon as possible." Sky News reported on Monday that Islamic State was planning to murder Jewish children in Turkey, with Jewish kindergartens, schools and youth centers on the group's target list.

**UN** - "Only Israel is permanently scheduled for condemnation at the UN Security Council," he said. "Not Iran, not Syria, not North Korea." He went on to make clear his opposition to the prospect of a UN Security Council resolution laying down the parameters for a future Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. He also showed the delegates a video montage of Palestinian children who do not recognize Israel's existence or accept a two-state model, calling for 1947 borders, and, perhaps most strikingly, a young Palestinian girl wielding a knife and screaming, "Stab! Stab! Stab!"



# BRUSSELS - Blame Israel

PA Security Forces spokesman suggests Israel is behind terror in Brussels punishing Europeans for support for Palestinian state and for boycott of settlement products

"Is it possible that the timing of the targeting [of Europe] by ISIS and its offshoots is innocent and a coincidence?"

Op-ed in PA daily: "Why did the crimes and terrorist massacres of ISIS in France and Brussels coincide with the European Union's first attempt to free itself of the Israeli extortion and of the Jewish persecution in Europe complex, and with European members of parliament's support of the Palestinian right [to statehood]?"



# Hamas Preparing for War?

- ❖ While world attention was focused on the terrorist attacks in Brussels on Tuesday, Hamas was conducting major military exercises in Gaza, to test its readiness for another war with Israel, i24 News reported on Wednesday.
- ❖ According to the report, the drills were not covered by members of the media in Gaza, who were barred from the area. But, as AFP reported, loud explosions could be heard emanating from the Palestinian enclave, controlled by Hamas since 2006.
- ❖ The type and amount of weapons used in the exercises - which reportedly involved 1,000 police, military and emergency services personnel - was not revealed. However, hospitals and schools in the area where they were taking place were placed on alert, according to AFP.
- ❖ Hamas has been boasting about rebuilding its terror network for the purpose of kidnapping and killing Israelis. Over the past several weeks, a number of Hamas operatives have been killed in the process, when tunnels in which they were working collapsed. It has not been established whether these collapses were caused by Israel (possibly with assistance from Egypt) or due to heavy rainfall. Both Israel and Egypt have denied involvement.



# PA Incitement

Emphasizing its support for stabbing attacks against Israelis, Abbas' Fatah movement posted a photo of a knife on Twitter, claiming that young Palestinians "follow this path" because Israel "forces" them to:

"Israel is forcing the young Palestinians to follow this path to Jerusalem.

Leave our land, you, your occupation, and your soldiers, and let us live in peace."

[Official Fatah Twitter account, March 27, 2016]

The image shows a knife with the Dome of the Rock in the center of it. Throughout the current wave of terror attacks, the Palestinian Authority and Fatah leaders have claimed complete innocence, accusing Israel of provoking Palestinians to attack in "self-defense."

Even Mahmoud Abbas himself has presented this spin on reality. [Palestinian Media Watch](#) documented that less than a week [after Palestinians had murdered 4 Israeli civilians](#), Abbas said:

"The Palestinian side did not attack and did not do anything against the Israelis... We have to protect our holy sites."



# Esther Scrolls

- ❖ JNS.org - Three Books of Esther scrolls read on Purim during the Holocaust were recently found in a hidden synagogue at the Warsaw Ghetto after a wall in an old building in the ghetto collapsed.
- ❖ Researchers at the Shem Olam Institute, also known as the Faith & Holocaust Institute for Education Documentation and Research in Kfar Haroeh, made the discovery of the scrolls.
- ❖ The scrolls were transferred to a storage archive at the institute. Two of the scrolls were in good condition but the third was burnt and nearly disintegrated.
- ❖ Rabbi Avraham Krieger, head of Shem Olam, said: "The more we investigate the life of the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto, we discover the courage and mental strength the Jews exhibited to keep the faith alive despite the grief and the threat of death that surrounded them from all directions. These scrolls, which relate the Jews' miraculous rescue from those who sought their destruction, survived the Nazi hell."



# Iran's Missiles



- ❖ Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Wednesday that his country needs its controversial missile program in order to negotiate from a position of strength and that those who oppose rocket development are treasonous. The comments came as Western powers called on the UN to take action against Iran over recent tests of ballistic missiles, noting they threatened Israel.
- ❖ Khamenei, who supported talks with the West over its nuclear program, said negotiations could not replace military might in Tehran's international relations. "That they say the future of the world is one of negotiation and not one of missiles, if that is said out of ignorance, well it is ignorance, but if it's said knowingly, it is treason," Ayatollah Khamenei said.





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