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Middle East Update



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Headlines

PASSOVER ALERT - The Islamic Movement is trying to stir violence on Temple Mount before Passover

IRAN - Iran's missile launches violated the spirit of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which lifted international sanctions on Iran when it agreed to the [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action](#) (JCPOA) regulating its nuclear program. This suggests that the Ayatollahs in Iran have no intention of getting "[right with the world](#)" as Obama once suggested, and intend to continue their revolutionary goals. Lest anyone fail to grasp that point, the missiles were inscribed with the words "[Israel must be wiped off the Earth,](#)" *in Hebrew.*

HEZBOLLAH - Israel has carried out dozens of strikes against Hezbollah to prevent the Lebanese group from obtaining advanced weapons, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday, a rare Israeli admission of involvement in a series of air attacks in Syria. Netanyahu made the comments while on a tour of the Golan Heights, where Israeli officials have warned Hezbollah and Iranian fighters may try to set up a base across the border in Syria to launch attacks against Israelis.



UN - US Veto?

- ❖ As Palestinians head back to the UN, cause for concern in Israel. Since the last showdown in 2014, the makeup of the Security Council has changed in the Palestinians favor, so Obama holds the key.
- ❖ "There are indications that President Barack Obama may try to put a basis for a new era regarding the Palestinian-Israeli issue before leaving the White House after his achievements in Iran and Cuba," Maliki said. "Thus the U.S. administration may surprise Israel by voting in favor of a Palestinian resolution or at least not to use the veto against it."
- ❖ Upcoming Security Council resolution is projected to easily win the votes it needs – and this time a US veto is far from assured



Goza Tunnels

- ❖ At least two members of the Hamas terror group were killed and several injured in a tunnel collapse in the Gaza Strip on Sunday evening.
- ❖ Conflicting reports in Palestinian media outlets say between two and five people were killed when the tunnel collapsed beneath the city of Rafah in the southern end of the coastal territory, along the border with Egypt.
- ❖ One report said unseasonable rains had caused the collapse, while another outlet reported that the Egyptian army had detonated the end of the tunnel that entered its territory, and flooded the remainder.
- ❖ The collapsed tunnel was the 12th reported incident of its kind since the beginning of the year. At least 16 people, most of them reportedly members of the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's armed wing, have been killed in the collapses.
- ❖ It is not clear what is causing the collapse of many of the tunnels, which serve a variety of purposes, from smuggling goods and firearms from the Sinai Peninsula to carrying out terror attacks against Israeli towns near the Gaza border.



PA - Double Talk



Netanyahu Called Abbas's Bluff

Following Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' declaration to Israeli journalist of his willingness to meet Netanyahu 'at any time', the latter states 'any day he can come, I'll be here'. "The first order of business will be ending the Palestinian campaign of incitement to murder Israelis," Netanyahu added. "My door is always open for those who want peace with Israel."



Selah - SONS OF ISSACHAR



Democratic leaders would do well to recall the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian executed by the Nazis, who stated that **"silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."**





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