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Middle East Update



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Headlines

- ❖ Poll: Most Israelis think any of the candidates would be better for Israel than Obama. Channel 1 survey finds majority prefer Clinton in the White House, but believe Trump and Netanyahu would get along better
- ❖ Police brace for Jewish-Arab friction during Passover. Security forces on high alert, focus on religious sites, Jerusalem. Some 50,000 Israelis attend Priestly Blessing at Western Wall, as tensions on the Temple Mount rise Israel Defense Forces.
- ❖ Defense officials are concerned that an Islamic State affiliate operating near the Syrian border with Israel has acquired chemical weapons and may be planning to test them, Channel 10 news reported Tuesday.
- ❖ Israel scorns UN stance on Golan: Should we negotiate with Islamic State?



Enemies of Israel are Always United



Israeli top political leaders and military commanders were stunned and shocked when they found out that US President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin have agreed to support the return of the Golan to Syria.

The two presidents gave their top diplomats, Secretary of State John Kerry and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, the green light to include such a clause in a proposal being drafted at the Geneva conference on ending the Syrian civil war



Temple Mount

Jordan won't Expose Palestinian Thuggery

Jordan's prime minister said his government has decided to call off a plan to install surveillance cameras at the Temple Mount. The decision came just days before the Jewish holiday of Passover - a time of increased violent activity at the site. In a deal brokered by US Secretary of State John Kerry, Jordan offered to install the cameras last fall. (Most political deals with Israel are not honoured by Arabs!)



PA - Peace Partner

Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement is promoting its student movement Shabiba's election campaign at Birzeit University by posting the above poster on its official Facebook page.

The poster shows a knife dripping with blood, shaped as the PA's map of "Palestine" that includes the PA areas as well as all of Israel. The entire map is painted in the colors of the Palestinian flag, implying Palestinian political sovereignty over Israel.

Text on the poster says:

"Plant it [the knife] in the heart of your enemy"

[Official Fatah Facebook page, April 26, 2016]

Palestinian Media Watch has shown that both Fatah and the PA in statements and visual expressions reject the idea of a two-state solution, and instead present a future with only one state of "Palestine," completely erasing Israel.



Why NO Peace in the ME

- ❖ Young Palestinian children participating in a festival in the Gaza Strip this week wore military fatigues, and brandished toy knives and machine guns as they performed a play simulating violence against Israelis.
- ❖ The event was broadcast on a Hamas television channel dedicated to culture, available in Gaza and the West Bank, according to Channel 2 news.
- ❖ One short clip of the play aired on Tuesday shows a young girl armed with a knife attempting to free a Palestinian prisoner from Israeli jail by stabbing the guards. She is shot and falls to the ground amid cries and screams from the audience. Other little girls then approach and cry over her "body."
- ❖ "Do not be angry with her," a voice on the loudspeaker says. "She is your blood, your flesh and your honor."
- ❖ "When Palestinians send their kids to act in this school play no wonder their kids commit attacks when they're older" Gendelman tweeted.



Obama's View Of Reality

- ❖ People in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Iran and even Europe would likely beg to differ with U.S. President Barack Obama's assessment that we are very lucky to be alive here and now, in the "most peaceful era in human history."
- ❖ Some 400,000 Syrians have been slaughtered in their own country. Not since the Second World War has Europe been flooded with so many refugees and migrants. Also not since that war has the radical right in Europe posed such a challenge. The threat of terror has never been as tangible as the threat posed by Islamic State today. And the stagnation presently threatening European markets has never been worse.
- ❖ But not to worry, although we may be on the precipice of the abyss in many places across the globe, next year, heaven forbid, we could take that large step forward -- among other things, because of Obama's legacy.



Priestly Blessing

Thousands of Jews gathered at the Western Wall in Jerusalem on Monday to attend a mass prayer for the holiday of Passover.

The crowd of men, women and children took part in the special Birkat Hakohanim prayer, or the "Priestly Blessing," which draws Jewish worshippers from across Israel and around the world. The blessing is held twice a year, during the holidays of Passover and Sukkot. Kohanim, or priests, lead the communal prayers by chanting three consecutive verses of the Torah one word at a time, in a special song reputedly dating back to the Temple era.

The text of the Priestly Blessing recited by the Kohanim, which appears verbatim in the Torah, is:

May the LORD bless you and guard you -
May the LORD make His face shed light upon
you and be gracious unto you -
May the LORD lift up His face unto you and give
you peace -



ISRAEL FROM SPACE





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