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Middle East Update



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Headlines

According to Israeli military data, March was the calmest month for Palestinian terrorism since last November • Five shootings, eight stabbings and two vehicular rammings took place in March in Judea and Samaria and the Jerusalem area.

Just for comparison's sake, 62 terror attacks (or attempted attacks) were recorded in October 2015

48 were recorded in November, 45 in December, 26 in January 2016, 30 in February

Brussels shuts down Jewish synagogues - but not the mosques; this is Belgium's pathetic response to the Muslim terror attack on its soil.

A Muslim was Killed for Loving 'Infidels' Asad Shah, a much-loved local shopkeeper, was brutally murdered in Glasgow Thursday, hours after wishing his Christian customers a happy Easter on Facebook, in what police are treating as a religiously motivated crime.



Food for Thought by Steven Shamrak

Anti-Semitism is the world most powerful super glue - it unites most of the causes, even brings together mortal enemies no matter how disparate or ugly they may be. It invokes and perpetuates the darkness of jealousy and hate. It spreads like maggots on a dead body of sick societies, who must be grateful for existence of Jews. Without Jews most of them would have destroyed each other a long time ago!

April Fools? Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said on Thursday he was working to stop Palestinian knife attacks and other street violence against Israel and had offered to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to rekindle peace efforts. (This report came out on April 1st - hmmmmm)



Iranion Update

- ❖ Barack Obama says Iran nuclear deal has been successful so far but more work needed to implement it, "When they launch ballistic missiles with slogans calling for the destruction of Israel, that makes businesses nervous, When Iran continues to ship missiles to Hezbollah, that makes business nervous."
- ❖ House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan on Friday - "These reports are deeply concerning, to say the least," he said in a statement. "As Iran continues to undermine the spirit of its nuclear agreement with illicit ballistic missile tests, the Obama administration is going out of its way to help Tehran reopen for business. The president should abandon this idea."



Abbas Olive Branch



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas strongly rejected the charge that he incites terror, speaking in a rare interview with Israel's Channel 2 television Thursday. "Our security forces, we go into schools and search their bags to see if they have knives. You don't know about that," he told journalist Ilana Dayan. "In one school, we found 70 students with knives in their bags. We tell them, 'We don't want you to die. We want you to live and that other people should live.'"



Oswald, Sirhon Shirhon?

- ❖ A Palestinian Authority school honored a female terrorist responsible for one of the worst terror attacks in Israel's history, naming a girls' basketball tournament after Dalal Mughrabi, who took part in the Coastal Road Massacre.
- ❖ In 1978, Mughrabi and several other Fatah terrorists landed on a beach near Tel Aviv, hijacked a bus on Israel's Coastal Highway and eventually killed 38 civilians, 13 of them children, and wounded over 70.
- ❖ Over the years the terrorists, who died in a firefight with Israeli security forces, have been hailed as heroes by Fatah.
- ❖ Palestinian Media Watch reported Wednesday that a Ramallah-area school for girls, Al-Awael, this month held the "Dalal Mughrabi Cup" in honor of the killer.



Hamas

- ❖ Hamas on Friday publicly acknowledged for the first time that it was holding four Israelis: two Israeli citizens who crossed into Gaza on their own accord and the bodies of two soldiers killed in 2014's Gaza war.
- ❖ The group published photos of the four: slain soldiers Oron Shaul and Hadar Goldin, 29-year-old Avraham Mengistu, and a Bedouin-Israeli citizen whose name has not been released for publication.
- ❖ Shaul was killed with six of his comrades when a Golani APC was hit with an anti-tank missile on the second day of the ground offensive. The bodies of the other six were identified but Shaul was missing in action.
- ❖ The next day, Hamas announced it had kidnapped an Israeli soldier, naming Shaul in its statement. The news was welcomed on the Palestinian street with dancing and sweets.



Social Media

- ❖ According to the blogger, Sout al-Omma published the traditional “Passover blood libel” earlier this week as “straight news” in its “investigations” section. The outlet “explained” that since medieval times, Jews have used the blood of young children to make Passover matzah, adding that today Israel imports children from Brazil for the same purpose. It claimed, too, that Israeli Arabs live in fear, during the weeks leading up to Passover, that their children will be kidnapped and murdered by Jews in preparation for the holiday.
- ❖ Sout al-Omma then posted the article on its Facebook page, illustrating it with medieval Christian illustrations of Jews practicing the bloody ritual.
- ❖ What is crazy is that Facebook’s response means that “accusing Jews of murdering Arab and Christian children to eat their blood is not a violation of [Facebook’s] community standards.”





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