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Middle East Update



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Headlines

PM convenes cabinet as violence escalates on Gaza border. IAF strikes Gaza targets after mortar shells fired at IDF troops along border. A dozen mortar attacks on Israel recorded since Tuesday.

Iran claims to successfully test missile that can reach Israel

Highly accurate ballistic missile has a range of 2,000 kilometers, was launched two weeks ago.

London Elects a Muslim Mayor Who Defended 9/11 Terrorists - In another clear indication on how Europe is changing, London voted in its first Muslim mayor. Will he fight radical Islam? Or will he enable it?

Since its establishment, Israel's population has grown tenfold. At its founding, in 1948, Israel's residents numbered 806,000, compared to today's 8,522,000. Some 6,377,000 Jews now live in Israel. Israel's Jewish population comprised 43% of world Jewry in 2014, compared to 6% in 1948.



Millennials Views on Israel



- ❖ Sympathy for the Palestinians among American millennials has seen a dramatic rise over the past 10 years, while that for Israel has remained relatively unchanged, a poll published on Thursday revealed.
- ❖ According to the Pew Research Center poll – which surveyed general attitudes of the American public in areas of foreign policy – sympathy for Palestinians among millennials increased 18 percent between 2006 and 2016. The results, according to Pew, represent “generational differences in sympathies in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Older generations tend to be more sympathetic toward Israel than younger generations.”



ISRAEL at 68: ISOLATED?

- ❖ Secretary of State John Kerry and other Western policy-makers – joined by the “elite” Western media – contend that 68 year-old Israel is increasingly isolated due to its defiance of global pressure to evacuate the mountain ridges of Judea and Samaria, which tower over Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion Airport and 80% of Israel’s population, transportation, technological and business infrastructure.
- ❖ However at 68, Israel is highly integrated into the key global disciplines, in defiance of John Kerry’s warning that “if we do not resolve the issues between Palestinians and Israelis, there will be an increasing isolation of Israel.” The Secretary’s warning is overwhelmingly squelched by global reality, defies 71% of the US public, which considers Israel favorably according to the February, 2016 annual Gallup Poll, and is inconsistent with the US Congress’ systematic and massive support of Israel.



HERE WE GO AGAIN!



Israeli aircraft struck five Hamas targets in Gaza in response to six mortar attacks at Israel. Israel earlier said it responded with tank fire.

Last month, Israel discovered and destroyed a tunnel dug from Gaza into Israel.

(Will the Israeli government now have vision and determination this time around to remove Hamas and all hostile population from Gaza during the next conflict which is approaching? Only decisive victory and end of the occupation of Jewish land by enemies will stop mortar and rocket attacks from Gaza and internal terrorist attacks!)



Quote of the Week

"If the next confrontation is inevitable, then why are we letting Hamas to continue to strengthen? This government is pursuing a defeatist and weak policy. The leadership is not built for and not capable, mentally, psychologically or personally, to handle the challenges that are on the agenda. This is a government that doesn't know how to take decisions and that is afraid to fight against terror. We must defeat terrorism, not contain it." - [MK Avigdor Lieberman, leader of Yisrael Beytenu party](#) - This statement is a good description of most governments of Israel, as well as Obama administration.





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