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Middle East Update



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Headlines

Ahmadinejad's return to public eye in Iran fuels talk of comeback -

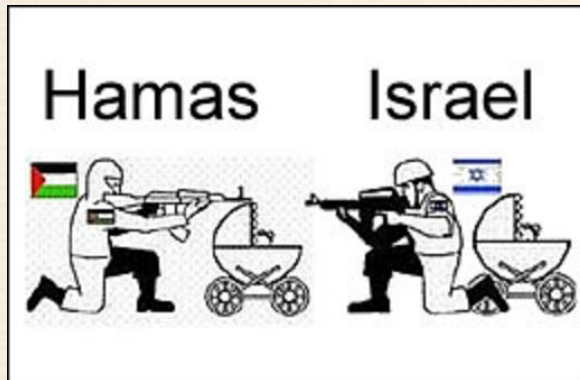
Former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad makes several appearances in recent weeks, raising prospect of return to politics • The Holocaust denier has not addressed his future or speculation that he plans to stand in next year's presidential election.

In a speech on Israel's Independence Day last week, Netanyahu explained Israel's opposition to the French initiative, saying, "Not only are direct talks the most logical route to peace, they are the only way to ultimately attain a lasting peace. ... **I want to make it clear to diplomats around the world: I continue to support the idea of two states for two nations -- a demilitarized Palestinian state that recognizes the Jewish state. It's about time.**"

Another Useless Apology at 'Ugly Nazi' - Venezuelan Ambassador to the UN Rafael Ramirez expressed his apology to Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon following his comments at the UN Security Council where he asked if "Israel wants a final solution to the Palestinians?" (As usual, this apology was not widely covered by international press,



Disproportionate Response



- ❖ Every IDF soldier is required to carry on him/her at all time a pamphlet of the IDF code of ethics. In this code of ethics it states that he/she will do everything to preserve human life and dignity, regardless of race and religion. The Hamas "code of ethics" says they will not stop until they have murdered every Jew around the world. The line between good and evil is crystal clear.
- ❖ No one is perfect. No country is perfect. No military is perfect. In combat, mistakes do happen. Every loss of life innocent life is tragic. We do all we can to prevent that, while they do all they can to promote it. As Prime Minister Golda Meir once said - "We can forgive the Arabs for killing our children. We cannot forgive them for forcing us to kill their children. We will only have peace with the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us."
- ❖ There is NOT, and there will NEVER be any moral equivalence between Israel and Hamas. The next time someone mentions disproportionate response with regard to Israel - teach them the rules of war, expose their hypocrisy, and put an end to their lies.



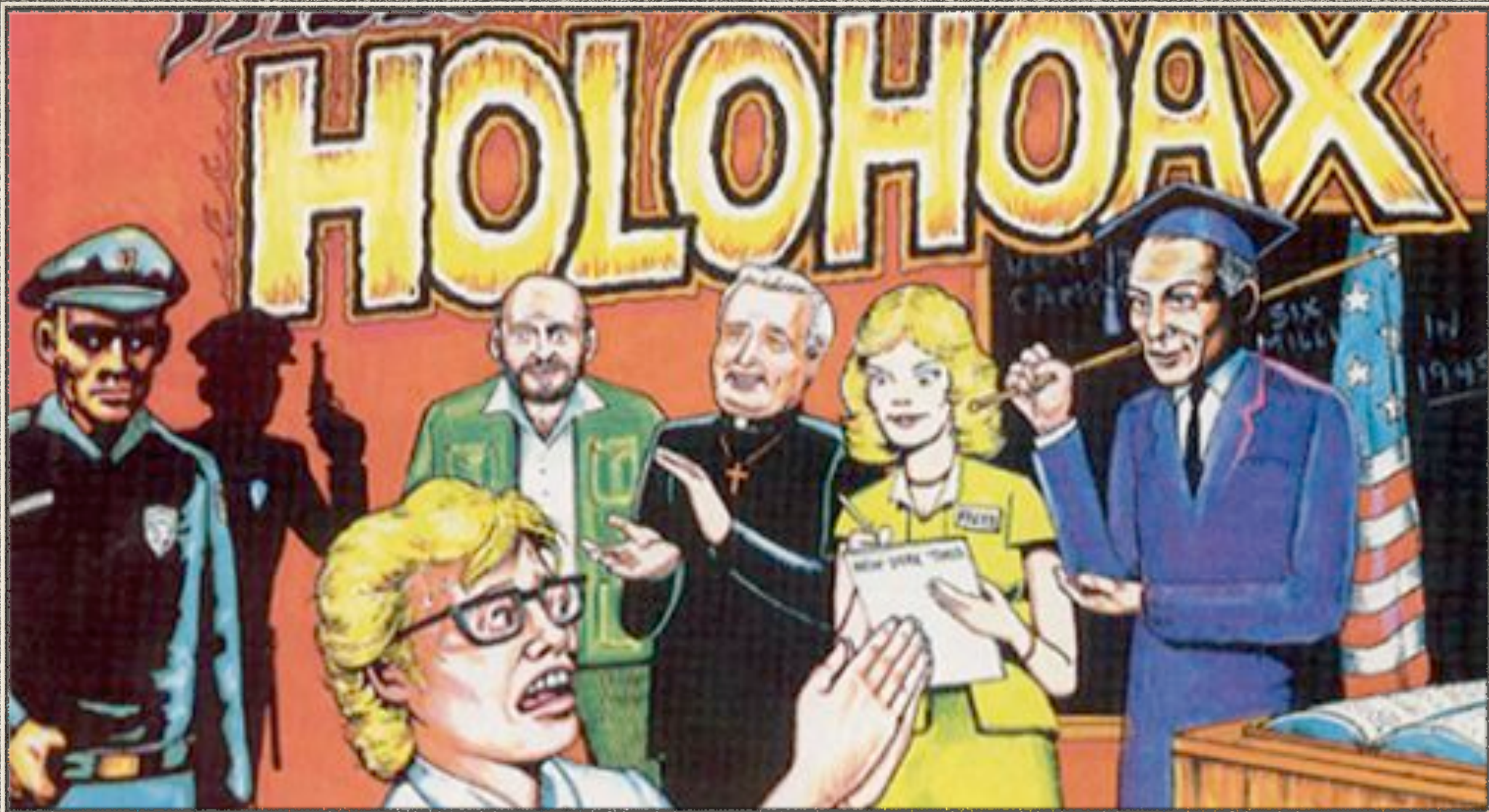
Bottom Line



A Palestinian girl's libelous statement that Jews "kill" Muslim worshippers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque plaza is an extension of the PA libel that Israel seeks to harm and destroy the Al-Aqsa Mosque - a libel [the PA has been repeating for years](#). These two libels, presenting Israelis/Jews as murderers who threaten Al-Aqsa have been used by PA and Fatah leaders as the prime motivating forces behind the recent wave of terror attacks against Israelis, which lasted more than 6 months and in which 34 Israelis were murdered and 452 wounded.

At the beginning of the terror wave, PA Chairman Abbas incited Palestinians by saying Jews had no right to "defile" the mosque with their "[filthy feet](#)." In March, Abbas justified the terror wave - what he calls the "peaceful uprising" - as a legitimate response because Israel had "continued to defile the Islamic and Christian holy sites." [Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, March 3, 2016]





Iran has long backed armed groups committed to Israel's destruction and its leaders have called for it to be wiped off the map. Iran has also criticized depictions of the Prophet Muhammad, arguing that Western countries tolerate expression deemed offensive to Islam but not the questioning or denial of the Holocaust. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu personally asked US Secretary of State John Kerry to condemn the Holocaust cartoon contest, while accusing Iran of "preparing another Holocaust."

Baptism Site

- ❖ Qasr al-Yahud, a site just north of the Dead Sea near Jericho, where many Christians believe Jesus was baptized, will be cleared of landmines and other ordnance, a half-century after Israel took control of the area during the 1967 Six-Day War.
- ❖ The Defense Ministry will carry out the clearing operation together with the HALO Trust, which describes itself as "the world's largest humanitarian mine clearance organization." The area includes ancient churches and monasteries that have been deemed unsafe because they are surrounded by landmines, although a baptism site that caters to pilgrims is accessible. The project will get underway toward the end of year, with about 247 acres set to be cleared.



Don't Mess With Texas

- ❖ **Texas Governor, Greg Abbott Refuses Obama's Request to Lift State Sanctions on Iran; Says Nuclear Deal Undermines US Security, Poses Existential Threat to Israel**
- ❖ "Israel has no stronger ally in the United States than the state of Texas. That's true for several reasons, in part because of our personality similarities, but also in part because of our commitment to defending religious liberty [and] state sovereignty. There is no state – I say with a smile – in the country that defends state sovereignty more than Texas. And there is no country that defends state sovereignty more than the nation of Israel. As Prime Minister Netanyahu made clear to me during our meeting... Israel is the nicest house in a rough neighborhood... I am deeply disturbed by the Iran deal that was struck by President Obama. I view it as a potential existential threat to Israel and, frankly, to nations across the globe. It makes no sense to me why the United States would be an accomplice to arming and aiding economically a nation that to this day seems to be devoted to terrorism. And every step of the way during the negotiation and post-negotiation process... Iran has repeatedly shown unwillingness to comply with any of the demands that were expected of them. And you all know probably better than I do what Iran did in March, where it launched missiles, saying in Hebrew that Israel should be wiped off the face of the earth. If that is not a message that the world should comprehend and understand the magnitude of, then the world needs to wake up."



Civil Disobedience



A Call for Nation Civil Disobedience to Obama's Public School Transgender Bathroom Mandate

Sometimes, in order to obey God we must disobey man. This is clearly one of those times. The Obama administration has mandated that public schools must allow boys who identify as girls to use the girls' bathrooms and locker rooms. This means that teenage girls must undress and shower in the presence of biological males. Enough! We must refuse to comply with his mandate.





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