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Middle East Update



DAN STOLEBARGER

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ISRAELI ISSUES

- * Muhammad Ahmad Musa Makhamreh and Khaled Muhammad Musa Makhamreh - 21-year-old Palestinian terrorists and also cousins, who carried out a shooting attack in Tel Aviv on June 8, 2016, **murdering 4 Israelis and injuring 16**. The terrorists ordered desert in the Max Brenner restaurant in the Saron Market, before they began shooting at people. Both were apprehended by the Israeli police, one of them shot and wounded before being caught and brought for treatment in an Israeli hospital.
- * Shortly after Wednesday night's deadly shooting attack in Tel Aviv, **celebrations broke out in the streets of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and east Jerusalem**. In Ramallah, Tulkarm, Qalqilya, Jenin and other cities, people danced in the streets, set off fireworks and handed out treats while praising the attacks.
- * **Google removes anti-Semitic app used to target Jews online**. The symbol, “(((()))” - called an “echo” allows white nationalists and neo-Nazis to more easily identify Jews and aim their anti-semantic vitriol.



When Lying is OK?

- ❖ The Obama administration misled the American people, journalists and lawmakers about the extent of American concessions and about what the Iranians were obligated to do as part of the deal. They overplayed Iranian concessions and underplayed American ones. The administration clearly hoped the Iranians would play along for at least a year or two without pushing the envelope and exposing their dishonesty. However, the Iranians refused to play along because they are actually hardliners who want to undermine American interests.”
- ❖ According to the official, the scrubbing scandal is now part of a larger net of lies cast by the Obama administration regarding the nuclear deal. “This is exactly what it looks like. The administration lied. They covered it up. And now they have to lie about the coverup,” the source told The Algemeiner.



PA Textbooks

- ❖ PA school books continue to promote violence and demonization of Israel and Jews. A recent study, found encouraging signs relating to gender issues, civil society, the environment , respect for the “other” Muslim or Arab, and respect for people with disabilities and the elderly,
- ❖ However, the curricula convey a message rejecting negotiations with Israel and promote a strategy combining violence and international pressure against Israel. It also promotes the “demonization of Israel as an evil entity that should be annihilated,” the report found.



GAZA TERROR TUNNELS

- ❖ Hamas operatives can travel throughout the Gaza Strip entirely underground using the terror group's extensive tunnel network, Israeli security forces said Sunday.
- ❖ Information about the tunnel system came from the testimony of a 17-year-old Hamas member who was picked up by Israeli troops last month after he illegally crossed into Israel from Gaza, the Shin Bet security service said.
- ❖ Through his testimony, Israel learned "Hamas is working to construct tunnels that are linked to combat tunnels throughout the Gaza Strip," the Shin Bet said.
- ❖ "Hamas has dug a extensive network for moving fighters around the Strip exclusively underground. This network of tunnels includes rest quarters for use by elite unites in time of emergency," the service said.
- ❖ In May and April, the IDF uncovered two "terror tunnels" that crossed into Israeli territory, the first such discoveries since the end of Operation Protective Edge in August 2014.



Obama's NOV. SURPRISE

- ❖ Word is going around in diplomatic circles that the Obama administration is planning a Nov. surprise for Israel. Here's what is said to be going on. The Paris peace conference last week, to which Israel and the Palestinians were not even invited, will end up exerting enormous pressure on Israel to create a Palestinian state. This renewed pressure will come despite evidence that a Palestinian state in the West Bank will quickly be dominated by genocidal Hamas, which is a threat to Israel and a disaster for the Palestinians. This will lead in all likelihood to a UN Security Council Resolution either condemning Israel for not creating that state or for not withdrawing from Judea creating that state for for not withdrawing from Judea and Samaria in the West Bank, despite the fact that doing so would irreversibly compromise Israel's security.
- ❖ Now , here is where it gets interesting. Israeli officials and Jewish communal leaders have told me that they expect that the Obama administration will not veto the resolution at the UNSC Samantha Power, the US ambassador to the UN, will not exercise the American veto. This would mean that the resolution/condemnation goes through. President Obama will not worry about how this might affect Hillary Clinton's election prospects because the UN resolution will come after the November election.
(continued)



- ❖ And that's how the Obama administration will wrap up - with a UN vote against Israel and the USA, for almost the first time, not vetoing a harmful resolution against Israel, Israel will be powerless to stop it.
- ❖ What gives credence to this speculation first and foremost is the Paris conference itself. If it were a serious conference about the prospects for peace, why on earth were the Israelis and Palestinians not invited? Israel has insisted on direct, bilateral talks without preconditions. The Paris talks therefore seem to be a complete waste of time, unless their purpose was to lead to a resolution at the UN regardless of Israeli objections. (Jerusalem Post - June 7, 2016)



Yozidis

- ❖ SPECIAL THANK YOU to all who donated to Sharon Stolebarger's Fundraiser for SoH's work with the Yezidi women. Here's some needed background information. (taken from Thursday's Jerusalem Post)
- ❖ Traditionally, minority groups have had a history of ambiguity in terms of security throughout the Middle East. For the past two years, due to the rise of ISIS, the Yazidis are facing potential annihilation or expulsion of their entire community. The possible decimation of the Yazidis had been termed genocide by the UN because it is not just a matter of numbers of those who have been murdered; the entire community might be destroyed as well.



- ❖ ISIS has enslaved an estimated 5,800 Yazidi women and girls. About 2,800 of them have escaped, mostly to camps in northern Iraq. They are unsure whether the dysfunctional Iraqi government or the Kurdish authorities will truly protect them. The other 3,000 retail in captivity, at the mercy of ISIS.
- ❖ History often repeats itself in the cruelest manner. World War II, the defeat of Fascism, totalitarianism and a genocidal Nazi regime were to suppose to usher in an era of peace. "Never Again," the rallying cry of the Jewish people, expressed the determination to ensure that Jews worldwide would not suffer anti-Semitism again. It was hoped that the Jewish experience would inspire the world to mobilize to protect minorities targeted for mass murder and abuse in a timely fashion.
- ❖ Alas, as the frequency and extent of violence reaches new depths of depravity, the cries of the victims of the Holocaust still have not moved individual governments to take meaningful actions. Not until March 17, 2016, did the US declare that ISIS' actions against the Yezidis and other minority groups constituted genocide.



Quotable Quotes

"You cannot be in favor of the Land of Israel in Hebrew and form a Palestinian state in English. Only when we will be sharp and determined will the world let us rest." **Naftali Bennett**

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said Sunday that the Palestinian people will not accept anything less than a full Israeli withdrawal from territories Israel captured in the 1967 war and the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.



TORAH CLUB GLEANINGS

Shavuot / שבועות

The festival of Shavuot (or Shavuos, in Ashkenazi usage; Shabhu'oth in Classical and Mizrahi Hebrew Hebrew: שבועות, lit. "Weeks") is a Jewish holiday that occurs on the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan (late May or early June). Shavuot commemorates the anniversary of the day God gave the Torah to the entire Israelite nation assembled at Mount Sinai, although the association between the giving of the Torah (Matan Torah) and Shavuot is not explicit in the Biblical text. The holiday is one of the Shalosh Regalim, the three Biblical pilgrimage festivals. It marks the conclusion of the Counting of the Omer.

And as you all know Shavout is the BIRTHDAY of the Church as well! Interesting parallels. Also noteworthy that the Book of Ruth will be read in all synagogues this weekend! The story of a Gentile Bride being "grafted" in to a Jewish family! Hmmmmmmm - something to think about!

Shavuot begins at sundown on Sat, 11 June 2016.





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Email - dan@hgkfir.com