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Middle East Update



DAN STOLEBARGER

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ISSUES

- ❖ Amid speculation over a developing Egyptian bid to revive stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi said late Sunday that Russian President Vladimir Putin was willing to host Israeli and Palestinian leaders for direct talks.
- ❖ Terrorists in Gaza on Thursday fired at an Israeli naval vessel operating along Gaza's coast. No IDF soldiers were harmed in the incident. The sailors fired back at the source of fire.
- ❖ Four Iranian boats on Wednesday harassed and attempted to intimidate a US Navy warship near the Persian Gulf in international waters, but no fire was exchanged.
- ❖ In a landmark discovery, researchers at Tel Aviv University (TAU) have unraveled the metastatic mechanism of melanoma, the most aggressive of all skin cancers and may therefore have found a way to prevent it.

IAF hits OVER 50 Gaza terror targets after Rocket Strike

A relatively long period of quiet along the Israeli border with Gaza came to an end, when a rocket from the Palestinian enclave was launched towards Israel, landing near a house in the town of Sderot. No one was hurt and the IDF responded by bombing Hamas targets in Gaza, which was no surprise.

What was surprising, however, was the second phase of the Israeli response, which came late at night, when the IDF started attacking targets in Gaza once again, this time firing from tanks and planes for more than an hour, hitting dozens of targets within the Strip.

This leads us to the conclusion that the new Defense Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, who as a member of the opposition just months ago, promised to conquer Gaza and kill the entire Hamas leadership after any provocation, is trying to preserve his reputation among the right-wing in Israel, but at the same time without taking too much risk.



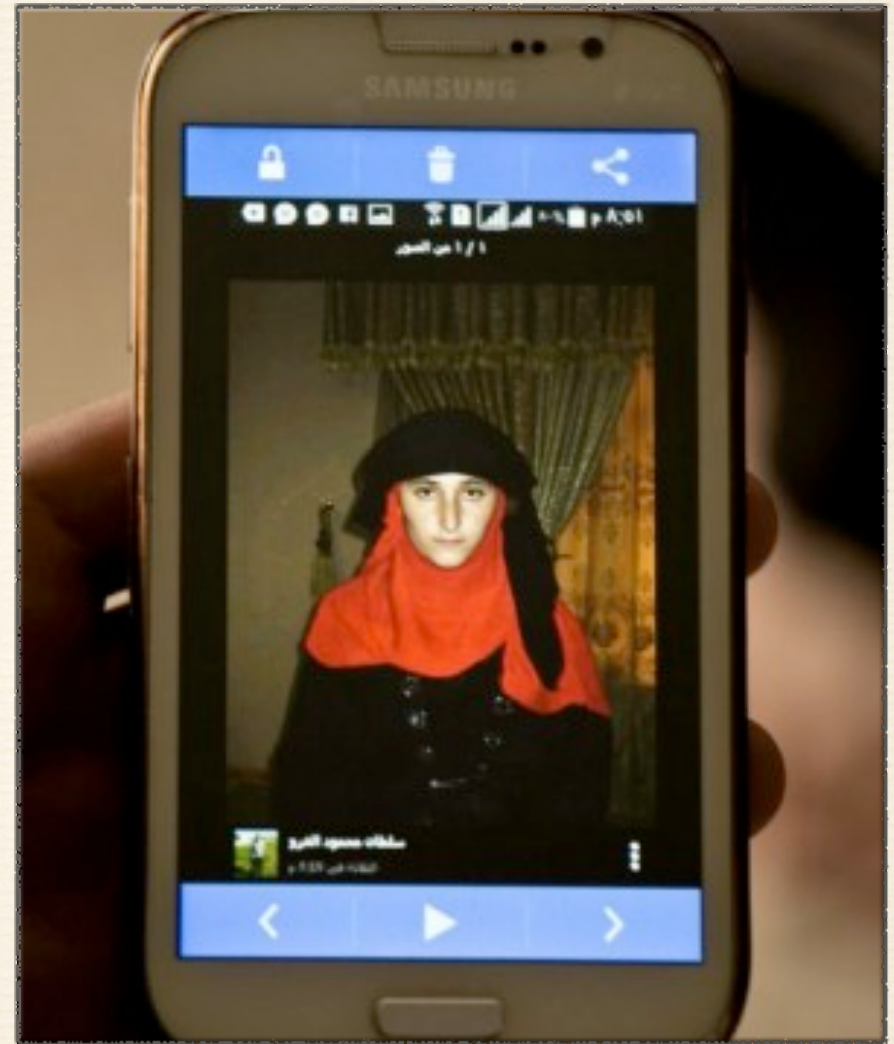
TURKEY Invades Syria

- ❖ Turkey, like several other countries, has many interests in Syria. It understands that it likely will not be able to overthrow Assad now, so it has joined those who are protecting him -- Russia and Iran. But this is not a natural coalition. The connection forged with Washington during the operation on Wednesday also wasn't necessarily natural.
- ❖ In our Middle East, there is no love, only interests. The Turks have one clear interest: preventing an independent Kurdish entity. They will get what they want in exchange for a war on the Islamic State group.
- ❖ Isaiah 17 speaks of the complete destruction of Damascus - some believe this this the trigger for the end times scenario



SPRINGS OF HOPE

- ❖ "In the view of the Islamic State ideology, the Yazidi's are not human beings," "We experienced that also in the Nazi regime in Germany, they did the same with the Jews."
- ❖ ISIS group militants took this photo of Yazidi girl Nazdar Murat, as part of a database the militants have put together of Yazidi girls and women they have enslaved. The Associated Press obtained a batch of 48 headshots of enslaved girls, smuggled out by one who escaped. "They register every slave, every person under their owner, and therefore if she escapes, every Daesh control or checkpoint ... they know that this girl ... has escaped from this owner."
- ❖ One of the bravest people I know, Lisa Miari, has started a ministry to these Yazidi girl's, for more information please go to her Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Sohisrael2014/>



TORAH GLEANINGS

Deuteronomy 11 vs. 13 - If you hearken. The Sages expound on the double form of the verb: if you hearken to what you already learned, by taking care to review and understand it, you will hearken to new learning. i.e., you will gain fresh insights into the Torah you already know (*Rashi*). Conversely, if someone neglects his studies, he will forget what he has learned. In the words of an ancient maxim, "If you forsake me [i.e., the Torah] for one day, I will forsake you for two days".

DAN - I find this comment fascinating - when it comes to our growth and spirituality Yeshua makes the point that the more you have the more you will receive (parable of the talents). The world sort of likes the Robin Hood mentality - to take from the rich and give to the poor, but we must understand that in the Kingdom of God the opposite is actually true! We must understand the importance of being daily devoted to the spiritual disciplines (reading our Bibles, daily prayers and fellowship with others.) If we get lazy then according to the above there will be consequences.



Quotable Quotes

Soren Kierkegaard regarded life in this world as education for eternity, a "school of suffering."

About Testing - WHY TESTING? - Since God already knows the outcome of the test, its purpose is to "raise up" the righteous by lifting them up to a new spiritual level. In other words, testing is therefore inherently soul-building.





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Email - dan@hgkfir.com