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**Middle East Update**



**DAN STOLEBARGER**

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# ISSUES

- ❖ **Hatred of Jews and demonization of Israel are at “the highest level of our lifetimes,”** Israel’s UN envoy warned on Monday during a high-level forum on antisemitism held by the world body at its headquarters in New York.
- ❖ **“Over 1/3 of European Jews are afraid to wear a yarmulke or Star of David in public,”** Danny Danon said in an address to the forum. “More than half of French Jews have considered emigrating because they don’t feel safe living as Jews in France. Today we hear things about Jews and the Jewish people that we thought belonged to the pages of history...Antisemitism is returning to everyday life without shame.”
- ❖ **To the disbelief of passengers gathered to board Air Serbia Flight 816 to Ben-Gurion International Airport, an employee twice said over the intercom, “The flight to Palestine will depart from Gate C3.”** After some passengers protested, they were then told that the flight was to ‘Tel Aviv, not Israel.’
- ❖ **Gaza's Islamist rulers also investing in weapons aimed at bypassing Iron Dome anti-missile system, and in more precise rockets.** Hamas spends \$100 million a year on military infrastructure. \$40 million of the annual total goes to terror group’s tunnel digging work, which employs 1,500 Palestinians



# ISSUES

**"U.S. condemns Netanyahu's charge that Palestinians want to 'ethnically cleanse' Jews from West Bank" by William Booth:** "U.S. officials condemned a provocative video posted Friday by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that accused the Palestinians of wanting to commit "ethnic cleansing" by ridding the West Bank of Jews..."

## **IAF strikes Syrian artillery targets after more mortar fire hits Israel**

IDF says "will not hesitate to act against other opposition forces in Syria," in departure from policy to retaliate only against regime targets • Military officials believe Syrian President Bashar Assad getting bolder, as missiles launched at IAF planes.

## **Report: Iran threatens to down US surveillance planes in Gulf**

U.S. aircraft flying in international airspace told by Iranians to change path or risk being shot down • "We wanted to test the Iranian reaction," a U.S. official tells Fox News • U.S. State Department: Iranian provocations are "disturbing" trend.

## **Two-state solution, says Obama, is vital for Israel to 'endure and thrive'**

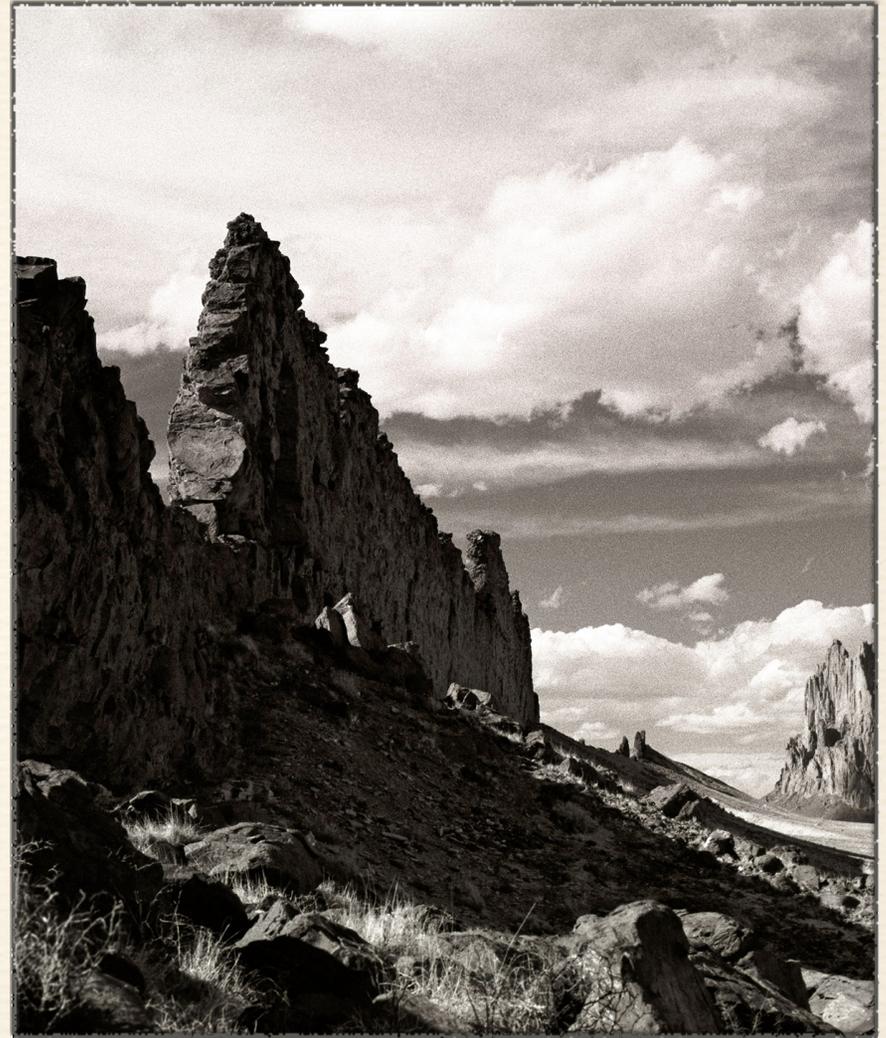
Touting aid deal, Obama says true Israeli security requires Palestinian statehood  
US president says military package will help Israel defend itself but 'long-term security' depends on creating 'an independent and viable Palestine'



# 38 Billion With a Catch?

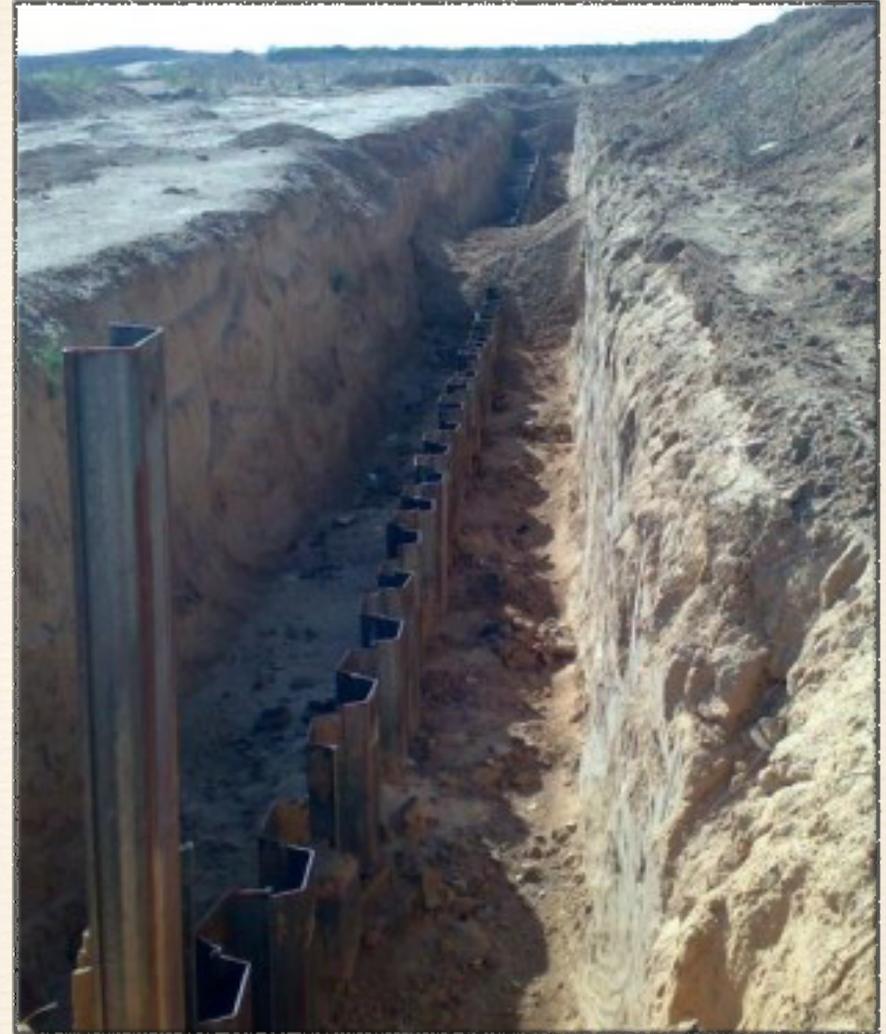
## **"Obama Prods Netanyahu After Signing of U.S.-Israel Aid Deal" by Julie Hirschfeld:**

"Obama renewed his call for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and argued that it was crucial to Israel's security, using the completion of a new agreement to provide \$38 billion in American military aid as an occasion to prod Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on a long-running dispute... The strongly worded statement raised anew the possibility, the subject of a long-running debate at the White House, that Mr. Obama might make an effort after the November election to lay out terms of a possible peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians, perhaps through introducing a resolution at the United Nations Security Council.



# Goza Tunnels

- ❖ Israeli defense officials on Thursday said the government has begun work on a massive underground barrier along the border with Gaza meant to block Hamas terrorists from tunneling into Israel.
- ❖ The project is the hallmark of a huge Israeli effort to halt the Hamas terror tunnels, which IDF officials have identified as a strategic threat. Hamas militants have used underground tunnels to attack Israelis.
- ❖ During Operation Protective Edge in the summer of 2014, Hamas terrorists managed on several occasions to make their way into Israel through their tunnel network, killing several IDF soldiers, though they did not reach nearby civilian areas.
- ❖ Israel destroyed some 32 tunnels during that conflict and has announced the discovery of several more tunnels since then.



# Unbelievable

Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah Movement continues to take pride in the massacre at the 1972 Munich Olympics, when Palestinian terrorists from the Black September terror group murdered 11 Israeli athletes.

On the anniversary of the killings, Fatah's Facebook page called the massacre a "heroic operation", posting photos of the terrorists carrying out the attack and of Black September leader Salah Khalaf. Fatah stated that the attack showed "the courage and power of the Palestinian resistance fighter":

"The 44th anniversary, Sept. 5-6, 1972, the anniversary of carrying out of the heroic Munich operation that was carried out by fighters of the PLO Black September organization. The Munich operation is still remembered and is recorded in history, and it demonstrates the meaning of the courage and power of the Palestinian resistance fighter and his self-sacrifice for the homeland and for the cause."

[Official Fatah Facebook page, Sept. 5, 2016]



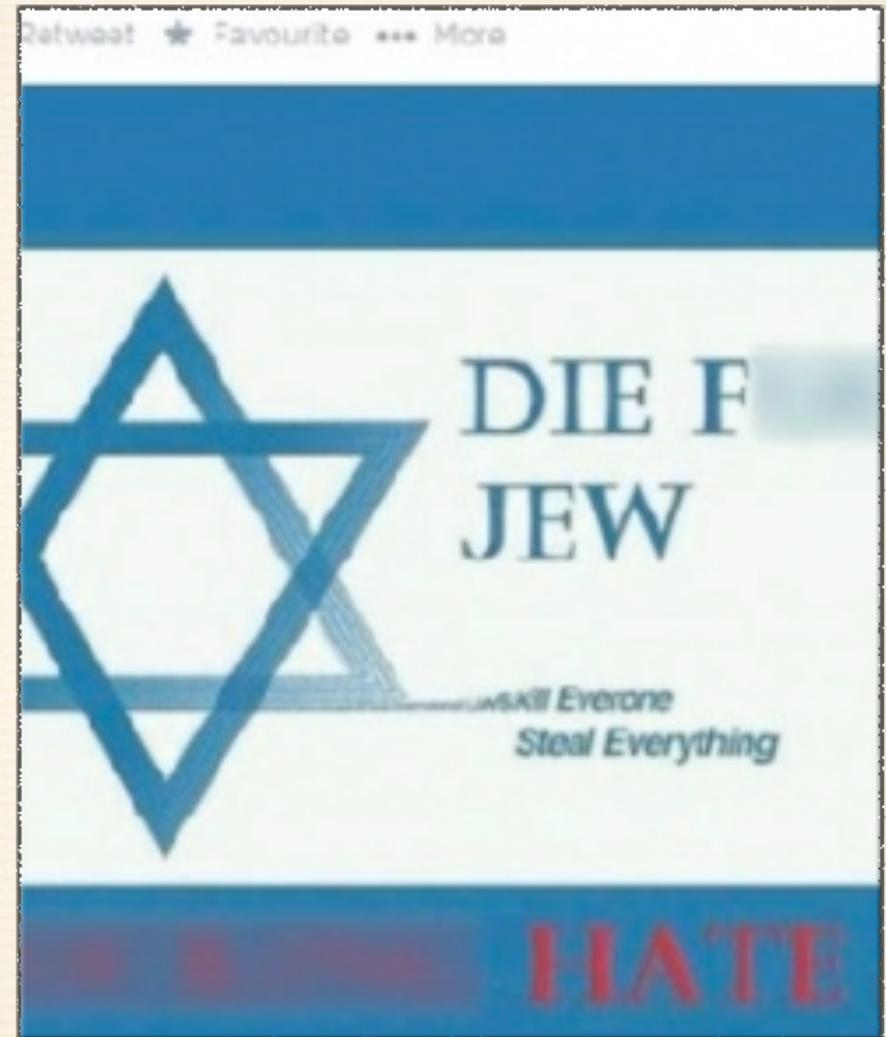
# Millennials

- ❖ Less than one-third of US-educated millennials are able to identify Israel on a map, a new survey has found.
- ❖ According to the joint study – titled “What College-Aged Students Know About the World: A Survey on Global Literacy” – conducted by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and National Geographic, a mere 31 percent of respondents knew the location of Israel on a map of the Middle East.



# Social Media Anti-Semitism

- ❖ UN envoy: Rise of social media linked to rising anti-Semitism
- ❖ While 63% of all anti-Semitic tweets call for violence against Jews, only one in 10 are removed, Ambassador Danny Danon tells U.N.'s High-Level Forum on Anti-Semitism • "We are living in a new era and we face a new kind of anti-Semitism," he says.



# SOU1 Motos?



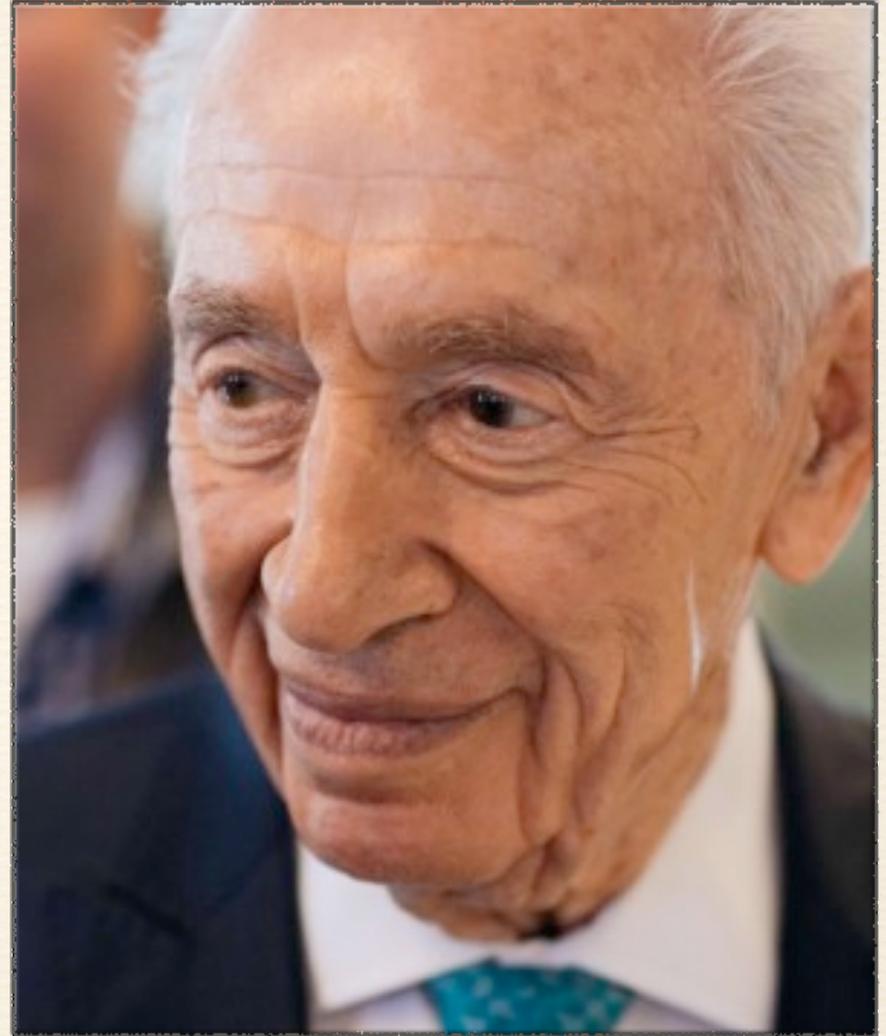
- ❖ American officials told The New Yorker magazine that members of the administration see Netanyahu as “myopic, entitled, untrustworthy, routinely disrespectful toward the president, and focused solely on short-term political tactics to keep his right-wing constituency in line.”



# Shimon PERES

"Shimon Peres, Former Prime Minister of Israel, Suffers a Stroke" by Peter Baker:

"Mr. Peres, 93, was sedated and put on a respirator on Tuesday when he was brought to the Israeli hospital, where he suffered the stroke after complaining of a headache. After an all-night vigil in the hospital, with expressions of sympathy pouring in from around the world, his doctor said Wednesday morning that Mr. Peres was in critical but stable condition and was not in immediate danger of death, although his chances of recovery remained uncertain. "It's very emotional, as you can imagine."



# TORAH Gleanings

**21 vs 23 - For a hanging person is a curse if God.** According to the Talmud, the Great Sanhedrin decided that *“that a man be hanged with his face towards the spectators”* upon a wooden stake with his arms clung over a horizontal beam. The exposed body was required to be buried before sundown to keep the land from being defiled (Deut. 21:22-23). Besides the shame and the degradation for this manner of death, the one executed would be unable to fall to their knees as a final act of repentance before God, thereby implying that they were under the irrevocable curse of God.

DAN - Paul wrote, “The Messiah redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us - for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” 1 Peter 2:24: He himself bore our sins in his body on the stake, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness – by his wounds you were healed.

**24 vs 5 - exemptions from the army - And he shall gladden his wife.** The Torah implies pointedly that a man does not experience true joy unless he brings joy to others. The new husband is not free merely to celebrate his own marriage, but to bring happiness to his wife, as well.



# Quotable Quotes

Thou has brought me to the valley of vision, where I live in the depths but see  
You in the heights; hemmed in by the mountains of sin I behold Your glory.

Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen from deepest wells, and the deeper the  
wells the brighter thy stars shine;

Let me find Your light in my darkness, Your life in my death, Your joy in my  
sorrow, Your grace in my sin, Your riches in my poverty and Your glory in my  
Valley.

The Valley of Vision  
A collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions





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