



# KFIR

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**Middle East Update**



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# Reflections

## Regarding ISRAEL

We did not feel any tension on this Tour however upon leaving there was a rocket attack in Sderot that the IAF responded to with at least two air strikes.

My sources tell me regarding Lebanon and Hezbollah that because of the overwhelming victory in the last Lebanese war (which went unreported) Hezbollah is still somewhat licking their wounds and are a bit apprehensive to launch any of its stockpile of rockets into Israel.

The new concern is Russia and their involvement in Syria. The type of weaponry they are making available creates a formidable opposition.

## Regarding AUSCHWITZ & BIRKENAU

Sigh, Groan ... still processing ... one can hear the silence, the ground shouting and Abel's blood for vengeance!

6 Million ... Never Forget - We must remember!



# MUSINGS - Soloh

(taken from "The Auschwitz Collection")

"The wild grass rustles  
The trees look ominous like judges  
Here all things scream silently."

"All of us, dying here amidst the icy arctic indifference of the nations,  
we are forgotten by the world and by life ..."

"Then for the first time we became aware that our language lacks words to express this offense, the demolition of man .... We had reached the bottom. It is not possible to sink lower than this ... Nothing belongs to us anymore, they have taken away our clothes, our shoes, even our hair ... They will even take away our name. My name is 174,517 ... we now carry our names on the tattoo on our left arm until we die."

"Here in this carload  
I am Eve with Abel my Son  
If you see my older son Cain,  
Son of Man tell him ..."

# ISSUES

Two-thirds of Israelis think peace deal won't ever be reached – poll  
Fewer than 1 in 4 say accord between Israel and Palestinians possible, but not in next 5 years.

PA postpones local elections amidst fears of Hamas takeover. West Bank lawyers petition PA High Court to suspend elections, claim illegitimate as long as Hamas controls Gaza, Hamas lambasts court decision

Middle East Expert: Democratic VP Candidate Tim Kaine 'Grossly Distorted' Israeli Military Chief's View of Iran Deal

Hundreds of terrorized Israeli children recited psalms as they cowered under their desks on Wednesday morning, when a rocket fired from Gaza landed near their school, the Hebrew news site nrg reported. According to the report, the only lucky thing about the otherwise traumatic incident was that it occurred just after the kids had returned to their classrooms following their 10 am snack break.



# Israel Omitted

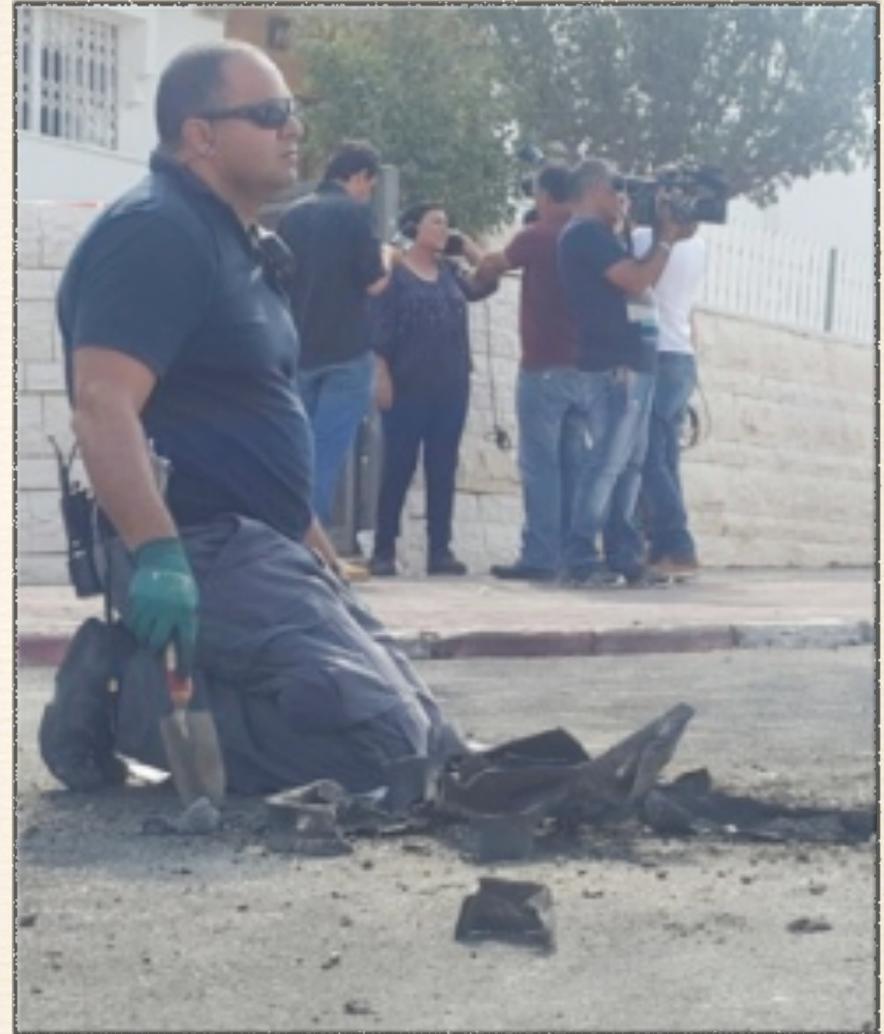


- ❖ The White House amended its transcript of President Barack Obama's eulogy for Shimon Peres to remove "Israel" from the Jerusalem dateline. The White House sent reporters an amended transcript Friday afternoon, "with a corrected header," about nine hours after the transcript was first mailed.
- ❖ Instead of simply removing the word "Israel," officials struck it through. US policy since 1949 has been not to recognize Jerusalem as belonging to any nation until its status is settled through peace talks.



# Sderot

- ❖ IDF tanks struck targets in the northern Gaza Strip Wednesday, after a Gazan rocket landed on a residential street in the southern city of Sderot. No injuries were reported in the rocket attack, though paramedics treated bystanders for shock and a nearby house and car suffered damage.
- ❖ The rocket attack Wednesday morning came after a calm Rosh Hashanah holiday. Following the IDF's retaliatory strike, Hamas ordered its operatives to leave their posts in western Gaza City. Hamas leaders have been unreachable on their cellular phones.
- ❖ The Islamic State-affiliated Ahfad al-Sahaba-Aknaf Bayt al-Maqdis (The Grandchildren of the followers of the Prophet) terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the rocket attack, though Israel holds Hamas responsible for all attacks launched from the Gaza Strip, which it controls.



# Israel - Energy SUPER POWER

An Israeli gas consortium on Monday signed what Israel called a "historic" \$10 billion deal with the Jordan Electric Power Company to supply the Hashemite Kingdom with natural gas.

The agreement will provide Jordan with a total of approximately 45 billion cubic meters of gas from the Leviathan offshore gas field, turning Israel into its largest gas supplier.



# Weekly Torah Portion

**Deuteronomy 31 vs 17-18 - I will conceal My face from them.** Sforno comments that in verse 17 Israel despairs, feeling that it has betrayed God so grievously that even prayer and repentance are useless. But God says no. He will never let Israel fall. He will always protect His people, but His Presence will be concealed, i.e., there will be times when Jews feel that God has disappeared, but He is always present, only concealed.

God's anger would be roused and He would "hide his face" from them (measure for measure). This is the very opposite of God's face "shining upon you" as mentioned in the birkat kohanim (priestly blessing). Note that the phrase *hester panim*, "hiding of face" is often used when discussing the role of God in the Book of Esther. God's plan is being fulfilled, step-by-step, even if it is hidden within the "natural" world of human beings and their (evil) choices. Despite the curses, God's guiding hand moves in the background, ultimately for the good.







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