

**KFIR**

# MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

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# EMERGENCY! PLEASE PRAY!!!

Fires spreading in the land...very possibly terrorist source.

Security forces are dealing with a wave of fires breaking out all over the country. According to official estimates, terror squads are igniting the fires in various areas, and efforts are being made to locate these squads.

Firefighters are working to subdue four fires around the city of Haifa.

Police have ordered the residents of 11 neighborhoods in Haifa, constituting thousands of people, to evacuate their homes and reach the Bat Galim Community Center or the old Qiryat Eliezer soccer stadium.



# ISSUES

**Did You Know ...** Egyptian-Israeli relations are at their “highest level in history,” a Jerusalem-based senior analyst for an international research organization told Al Jazeera on Sunday.

**Thomas Friedman:** "Wow, watching Trump try to forge a deal between Bibi Netanyahu and the Palestinians would be pay-per-view!" [[NYT](#)]

**Sen. Lindsey Graham:** "Governor Haley is a strong supporter of the State of Israel. Her presence as Ambassador will be reassuring to all those who are concerned about the increasing hostility of the United Nations toward Israel."

**"Israel accuses Iran of sending Hezbollah arms on commercial flights" by Michelle Nichols:** "In a letter to the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday, Israeli U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon... wrote that Quds Force officers pack arms and materiel into suitcases that are transferred to Hezbollah either by commercial flights to Beirut or commercial flights to Damascus in Syria, and then transferred by land to Lebanon." [[Reuters](#)]



# AARON KLEIN

## **Steve Bannon to the WSJ's Kimberley Strassel:**

"Anti-Semitic? Breitbart is the most pro-Israel site in the United States of America. I have Breitbart Jerusalem, which I have Aaron Klein run with about 10 reporters there. We've been leaders in stopping this BDS movement"—meaning boycott, divestment and sanctions—"in the United States; we're a leader in the reporting of young Jewish students being harassed on American campuses; we've been a leader on reporting on the terrible plight of the Jews in Europe." **[WSJ]**

Aaron Klein, who heads Breitbart's Jerusalem office, calls Trump chief strategist 'one of the best friends Israel ever had' in White House Klein added: "I have known him intimately and not only do I not know of any anti-Semitic statements – I know him to be a lover of Israel and somebody who literally fights against anti-Semitism."

*(We know Aaron Klein and have had him as a conference speaker in the past. I respect his opinions)*



# KEITH ELLISON

In recent days it has been widely reported that Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., is being considered as the new head of the Democratic National Committee. Ellison is appealing to his supporters for several reasons. Not only is he a staunch progressive, but he is also black and the first Muslim elected to Congress. In the eyes of his supporters, he is a living rebuke to the president-elect, Donald Trump.

As appealing as the symbolism may be, Ellison is still a problematic choice. He has a long history of actual extremism that ought to make him unfit for the position.

Ellison's deep ties with Muslim communal organizations, including several that are linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, are not a surprise – nor do such ties necessarily reflect poorly on him, by themselves. It is natural for Muslim organizations of any stripe to support the first Muslim in Congress; and one might imagine that Ellison would hesitate to distance himself even from objectionable organizations, so as not to give in to "Islamophobic" pressure.

However, there is a difference between the failure to condemn extremist activity, and active endorsements of it. Ellison has crossed that line frequently.



# LIES & DECEIT



- ❖ On a Palestinian Authority TV children's program known as The Best Home, the host told children that Israel killed their former leader Yasser Arafat along with "many of our people."
- ❖ "They killed Yasser Arafat, because until his final breath he defended the children of his people in war and in peace, diplomatically and also with a rifle, with a weapon."
- ❖ Watch this outrageous claim yourself to understand what Israel is actually dealing with when attempting restart peace talks with the Palestinians.



# OUR WEEKLY OBAMA WATCH

Most presidents, when leaving office, take a lengthy “sabbatical” to allow a peaceful transition of power. Obama, however, has made it clear that if Trump begins to undue his policies, he will be a vocal adversary. Can you imagine what impact this will have on an already divided country?

Washington DC insiders widely expect the president to launch a bold effort to constrain the president-elect's options in dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by supporting unilateral international recognition of Palestinian statehood, possibly in the UN Security Council. U.S. policy has long maintained that a Palestinian state should be established in conjunction with a comprehensive peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA).



# TORAH PORTION

## **Genesis 23 vs 11 - No, my lord, you need not purchase it.**

As the later verses reveal, Ephron's public generosity was a sham. He not only had no intention of making a gift, he hypocritically implied to Abraham that he expected an outrageously high price for the plot. As the Sages put it, the righteous say little but do much, but the wicked promise much and perform not even a little. They would offer to anoint with oil from an empty flask.

## **Genesis 23 vs 16 - To Ephron.**

The Torah implies that his stature was diminished - he started out making grandiose offers of a gift, but then revealed himself as a greedy man who extorted far more than the property was worth - for in the end he demanded from Abraham large shekels - negotiable currency - which were known as centenaria. As the Talmud explains, each shekel that Abraham used to pay for the plot was worth 2,500 ordinary shekels (Rashi). Thus Abraham paid a total of one million ordinary shekels for the cave.

This illustrates Abraham's love for Sarah. He chose the finest burial site for her and did not haggle over the price. As the Midrash states, this is one of the three places where Scripture attests to the Jews' incontestable possession of the Holy Land. For the cave of Machpaleh, the site of the Temple, and the Tomb of Joseph were all purchased without bargaining and paid for with unquestionably legal tender.





# QUOTABLE'S - SELAH

Beauty may wither, but not grace.- Jacob Klatzkin

If you do not suffer the toil of study, you will suffer the toil of ignorance.-  
Moshe Ben Ezra

If a horse with four legs can sometimes stumble, how much more a man with  
only one tongue!- Shalom Aleichem





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