



KFIR

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of December 23, 2016



Dan Stolebarger
Holy Ground Explorations



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ISSUES

The beleaguered residents of the community of Amona agreed to evacuate their homes in favor of being forcefully ejected by the IDF before the deadline of December 25.

Sweden will seek to advance a UN Security Council resolution condemning Israeli settlements when it assumes the council presidency in January.

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah claimed last week that his government has received no aid from Washington in 2016, accusing the US of imposing a "financial siege" on the Palestinians. But the State Department has in fact provided Ramallah with over \$357 million in financial assistance in the past year, according to information given to The Times of Israel by a US State Department official on Thursday.

A senior Israeli military officer said the army believes the chaos in the Middle East has weakened the country's enemies, creating a low probability of war involving Israel in 2017.



DAVID FRIEDMAN

- ❖ Trump's envoy: The new administration 'won't tell Israel what policies to adopt'
- ❖ David Friedman says the incoming president doesn't view Israel as 'a client state you issue directives to' but as a 'key partner' in war against Islamic terrorism, 'so he wants Israel to be as strong and secure as possible'
- ❖ Friedman believes settlements not an obstacle to peace, and two-state solution 'not a priority' for Trump
- ❖ Trump taps adviser Friedman as ambassador to Israel; he expects to work from Jerusalem
- ❖ In sign of president-elect's resolve to move embassy to holy city, intended envoy predicts he'll be based in 'Israel's eternal capital'



MOVING EMBASSY

- ❖ If the incoming Trump administration moves the US embassy to Jerusalem, the PLO will revoke its recognition of Israel, the prospect of a two-state solution will be over, and any hope of Israeli-Palestinian peace in the future will vanish, the top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat warned on Monday. Erekat said he would immediately resign as the chief Palestinian negotiator, and that “the PLO will revoke its recognition of Israel” as well as all previously signed agreements with Israel.
- ❖ Furthermore, said Erekat, all American embassies in the Arab world would be forced to close – not necessarily because Arab leaderships would want to close them, but because the infuriated public in the Arab world would not “allow” for the embassies to continue to operate.



TRUMP & ISRAEL



...According to Friedman, Trump was influenced by seeing a video last spring of a stage production put on at a Hamas-affiliated school in Gaza. "Half the kids were dressed up as Israeli soldiers or traditional garb and the other half were dressed up as shahids, and the kids playing terrorists took their fake knives and stabbed all the Jews," Friedman said of the film. "Fake blood poured on the stage, and the parents all applauded this in a first grade class."



OBAMA WATCH

- ❖ Will Obama betray Israel during his last weeks in office? A report by Breitbart says he is on the war path against the Jewish State.
- ❖ US President Barack Obama may allow anti-Israel resolutions to pass at the United Nations that would legitimize and strengthen the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement against the Jewish state, Breitbart News reported Monday.
- ❖ Palestinians are circulating a draft United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution which, among other issues, declares Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria to be illegal and launches a boycott campaign by demanding that UN member states refrain from offering any assistance to Israel that might connect to "settlements." Zealand and Sweden are reportedly in the works.



DANNY DANON

-- **Just yesterday, Ambassador Danon wrote the following in a NYT Op-Ed:** "Israel Is Ready for a Reset at the U.N.: Once it is treated as an equal, Israel wants nothing more than to build on the successful areas of cooperation it has established at the United Nations... More than this, Israel stands ready to contribute to the core areas of United Nations operations: peace and security... We look forward to a day when even more lives can be saved if Israel's capabilities are incorporated regularly into United Nations missions." [[NYTimes](#)]



THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

"Israel Weighs Asking Trump to Recognize Its Control of Golan" by David Wainer: "A senior adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is urging him to take advantage of an upcoming meeting with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump to seek formal recognition of Israel's sovereignty in the Golan Heights. "It's very important for the U.S. to back a formal recognition of Israel's control of the Golan," Michael Oren, a deputy minister for diplomacy at the prime minister's office, said in an interview in Jerusalem. "If it weren't for Israel's presence, the Syria war would be spilling over to Jordan. So Israel's presence in the Golan is indispensable for Mideast stability." [\[Bloomberg\]](#)



QUOTABLE'S - SELAH

"Aleppo's fall is Obama's failure" by Leon Wieseltier: "Contemplating the extermination of Aleppo and its people, I was reminded of a sentence that I read this summer. It appeared in an encomium to Elie Wiesel shortly after his death. It was a sterling sentence. It declared: "We must never be bystanders to injustice or indifferent to suffering." That was Wiesel's teaching, exactly. The problem with the sentence is that it was issued by the White House and attributed to President Obama. And so the sentence was not at all sterling. It was outrageously hypocritical. How dare Obama, and members of his administration, speak this way?" [[WashPost](#)]

Quote of the Week:

"Israel needs to change the narrative. No Israeli official should ever use the words 'West Bank' or 'Palestinian.' They need to use the words "Judea and Samaria" and "illegal immigrants" instead. Anytime anyone uses the words "West Bank" or "Palestinian," the Israeli officials need to correct them. If Israel deports Palestinians from the West Bank then the world will condemn Israel for ethnic cleansing. But if Israel is deporting illegal immigrants from Judea and Samaria, then Israel can say they are simply protecting their national borders." - a FaceBook comment.



TORAH PORTION

INTRO - Moshe Kempinski - Life Lessons from the Torah Reading

There are points in our lives where after years of striving and struggles one yearns for an oasis in time to rest and enjoy achievements, family and wisdom gleaned from life's experience. Yet it seems that at those times new challenges suddenly arise and new difficulties need to be engaged. In the "disconnect" between desire and reality frustration grows. In the midst of that frustration new opportunities can regrettably be missed

In our KFIR Bible Reading today we read from Isaiah 64 and as I was reading

vs (8) But now, Adonai, you are our father;
we are the clay, you are our potter;
and we are all the work of your hands.

DAN - As I meditated on both what Moshe has written as well as the text I prayed the following - Lord, I surrender all my plans to you today - be the potter and shape and mold my future according to Your Will.





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Email - dan@hgkfir.com