



**KFIR**

# MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

WEEK OF JANUARY 20, 2017



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# WEEKLY ISSUES

US President-elect Donald Trump's transition team has informed a number of US allies that it intends to go forward with its plans to move the US embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, according to a report by CNN.

US hedge fund manager close to Jared Kushner reportedly told PA leader in Ramallah meeting that US is serious about moving embassy.

The spokesman for Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party on Saturday warned the Pope that if the Trump administration moves the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, it will "open the gates of hell."

**Out with the old, in with the new.** President Barack Obama eroded the U.S.'s superpower status and is leaving behind a far more dangerous world than the one he inherited • A Trump administration gives Israel reason to be optimistic, although we must remember he is a very shrewd businessman



# ABBAS CRIES WOLF

Official PA news agency threatens: Trump responsible for blood in Jerusalem if he moves embassy

- Fatah: Moving US embassy to Jerusalem will "open the gates of hell"
- PA Mufti: "[Embassy transfer] is not only an attack on the Palestinians, but rather on [all] the Arabs and Muslims."
- PLO member: Embassy move constitutes "a declaration of war against our people and our Arab and Islamic nation"
- PA Prime Minister Hamdallah: Embassy move will lead to "explosion of the security situation in the entire region"
- Fatah official: "Transferring the American embassy to Jerusalem will absolve us of all the agreements and turn Palestine into a war zone"



# ISRAELI CHECKPOINTS

- ❖ In New Video, Filmmaker Reveals Palestinian Freedom of Movement Not Hindered by Israeli Checkpoints
- ❖ Horowitz recounted driving “hundreds of miles, crisscrossing the West Bank back and forth several times,” and encountering no difficulty. He also conducted many interviews with Palestinians, all of whom said that it takes them 10 minutes at most to wait in line ahead of a checkpoint, barring traffic, and maybe a minute for the soldiers there to check his papers and let him proceed. This, he noted, is after hearing reports of “hours spent at Israeli checkpoints.”

[https://youtu.be/QkpvaTy\\_1ZY](https://youtu.be/QkpvaTy_1ZY)

- ❖ In his speech on Mideast peace on December 28, US Secretary of State John Kerry said he had passed by “military checkpoints [in the West Bank] that can make even the most routine daily trips to work or school an ordeal.”



# YEHUDAH GLICK

- ❖ For the first time in recent memory, two Israeli lawmakers are planning to attend the inauguration of US President-elect Donald Trump.
- ❖ MKs Yehudah Glick and Sharren Haskel, both from the ruling center-right Likud party, have confirmed their participation at Friday's ceremony in Washington, DC.
- ❖ A delegation from the Yesha Council settlers' umbrella group is also planning to attend the event.
- ❖ The attendance of Israeli political figures at the swearing-in ceremony of an American president is unprecedented, according to one expert.



# PARIS PEACE PLAN

- ❖ U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry eased Israeli suspicions Sunday in a phone conversation with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in which he provided assurance that the Paris peace conference would not lead to any kind of concrete outcome at the U.N. Security Council or elsewhere.
- ❖ Kerry promised Netanyahu that the United States would not assist in passing a resolution against Israel in Tuesday's Security Council meeting, due to follow both the Paris conference and December's passing of Resolution 2334 against the settlement enterprise.
- ❖ According to a senior official in Jerusalem, Netanyahu told Kerry that Israel had already suffered damage due to U.S. refusal to veto the Security Council resolution in December.



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Under 'Obama rule' the anti-Semitic world shook off Holocaust guilt and began planning the next one! For quite a while they were waiting for the opportunity to unleash a new assault on Jews. Vilification of Israel, support for fake people is part of the anti-Semitic/Nazi plan! Now American and European schools are dropping Holocaust study, with the excuse it is to avoid offending Muslims Why should Muslims be offended by Holocaust study? They played a minor role in it before 1947. It is the Nazis and all European anti-Semites who did it, with co-operation from the US and the rest of the world! That is why they have never been comfortable with this curriculum.

Food for Thought by Steven Shamrak



# TEL AVIV or JERUSALEM?

- ❖ When Graham asked him what the capital of Israel is, Mattis answered: "The capital of Israel that I go to, sir, is Tel Aviv, because that's where all their government people are."
- ❖ Asked if he recognizes Jerusalem as the capital, Mattis replied: "Sir, right now I stick with the U.S. policy," which does not recognize Jerusalem as the country's capital.
- ❖ Graham then asked Mattis if he would support moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.
- ❖ "I would defer to the nominee for secretary of state [Rex Tillerson] on that, sir," Mattis said. At his confirmation hearing on Wednesday, Tillerson lambasted the policies of the Obama administration toward Israel, although he did not address the issue of Jerusalem specifically.



# QUOTABLE'S - SELAH

Paris Peace Confab Like 'Marriage Counseling With Neither Husband Nor Wife Present,' Netanyahu Spokesman Says; Foreign Ministry: Summit Turned as 'Flat as a Failed Soufflé'



# NEXT TOUR JOURNEY thru ISRAEL

APRIL 23 - MAY 1, 2017

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# POLAND EXTENSION

## MAY 2 - 8, 2017



The Sounds of Silence  
Experience

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