



KFIR

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of January 27, 2017



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WEEKLY ISSUES

Donald Trump Sworn In as America's 45th President, Vows to 'Eradicate' Radical Islamic Terrorism 'From Face of the Earth'

566 new housing units approved in Jerusalem

Municipality okays construction permits for new homes in Ramot, Pisgat Ze'ev and Ramat Shlomo neighborhoods, located beyond the Green Line. Zoning committee head cites inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump as motivation for permits.

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump is reportedly preparing two executive orders that would halt US funding to the UN and other bodies that grant full membership to the Palestinian Authority and the PLO, the New York Times reported Wednesday.



ISLAMIC TERRORISM

- ❖ WASHINGTON – In a forceful, uncompromising inauguration address, US President Donald Trump placed the battle against Islamic extremism at the heart of his foreign policy as he took office on Friday, vowing to work with allies to destroy the jihadist threat.
- ❖ “We will reinforce old alliances and form new ones, and unite the civilized world against radical Islamic terrorism, which we will eradicate completely from the face of the earth,” he declared, referring to the Islamist terror threat in language that his predecessor always preferred not to use.



THE BATTLE FOR JERUSALEM

Israel's control of a united Jerusalem is challenged now more than ever. U.N. Security Council Resolution 2334, adopted on December 23, 2016, declared the Jewish Quarter, the Western Wall, and the Temple Mount occupied territory and any Jewish presence there illegal if it is without Palestinian consent. This followed the October 2016 UNESCO resolution ignoring Jewish links to the Temple Mount. Moreover, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry announced on December 28, 2016 that for the first time, the U.S. supports the idea that Jerusalem should be the capital of two peoples. Many Israelis console themselves that President Donald Trump will move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, signaling a new era. Even if the move takes place, and even if it goes smoothly with few repercussions, it is not at all clear that the rest of the world will fall in step.



ANTI-SEMITISM

- ❖ Rabbi Marvin Hier, one of the religious leaders who offered a prayer at Donald Trump's presidential inauguration on Friday, was met with a wave of anti-Semitic comments on social media.
- ❖ In his 2-minute blessing, Hier prayed: "Eternal God, bless President Donald J. Trump and America, our great nation... [and] all of our allies around the world who share our beliefs," and cited a Psalm remembering Zion and Jerusalem.
- ❖ After Hier delivered the prayer on Friday afternoon, the 77-year-old rabbi became the target of hundreds of racist and anti-Semitic messages from US viewers watching the inaugural events online.



EMBASSY MOVE?

- ❖ WASHINGTON – President-elect Donald Trump's incoming White House press secretary said Thursday that an announcement on the administration's plan to relocate the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was in the works.
- ❖ Asked about Trump's intention to make the move – upending decades of US foreign policy – Sean Spicer told reporters to “stay tuned” and that “there will be a further announcement on that.”
- ❖ Spicer's statement comes less than 24 hours after US President Barack Obama warned his successor to be sure he's “thought it through,” warning that “unilateral actions” in a volatile region like the Middle East can be “explosive.”



FINAL OBAMA WATCH?

- ❖ Solidifying his anti-Israel legacy, Obama gave the Palestinian Authority a massive monetary gift, in defiance of Congress.
- ❖ Former US President Barack Obama, in his waning hours, quietly released \$221 million to the Palestinian Authority (PA), which Congress had been blocking.
- ❖ A State Department official and several congressional aides said the outgoing administration formally notified Congress it would spend the money Friday morning. The official said former Secretary of State John Kerry had informed some lawmakers of the move shortly before he left the State Department for the last time Thursday. The aides said a written notification dated January 20 was sent to Congress just hours before Donald Trump took the oath of office
- ❖ JUST IN ... **"Palestinians say Trump freezes Obama's last-minute \$221 million payout" by Avi Issacharoff:** "US officials conveyed to PA Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah on Tuesday that the funds were not expected to be handed over in the immediate future, said the source."



FATAH - PEACE PARTNER?

Fatah already planning terror campaign to prevent US embassy move to Jerusalem

- Fatah official: Fatah is holding meetings with "all of the field leaders... in preparation for a fierce popular intifada"
- "We won't... hesitate to take to the streets and return to confronting the occupation using all means"
- "America and the entire world will be witness to the collapse of the peace process and instability, and not only in Palestine"
- "Fatah said in a statement that this will cause an explosion in the entire world"



QUOTE of the WEEK

"Arabs can murder, rape, starve, maim, torture, deport, excommunicate, honor-kill, abuse, extort, rocket shell, assassinate, suicide bomb, behead, humiliate, jail without due process, occupy, mutilate female genitalia, Sex Traffic, honor kill, and enslaving of 90 Million people around the world all in Muslim countries. Where Is The UN Outrage?"



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