



KFIR

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of February 24, 2017



Dan Stolebarger
Holy Ground Explorations



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HEADLINES

The encouragement on social media by a McGill University student body representative to “punch a Zionist” was the “tipping point” that mobilized Jewish student leaders worldwide, the head of an international coalition told The Algemeiner. “The antisemitism is so overt and grotesque that people everywhere are really taking notice,” said Yosef Tarshish.

Iran’s supreme leader backs ‘holy intifada’ to destroy ‘cancer’ Israel. At conference backing violent uprising, Khamenei says no people in history ever suffered as badly as Palestinians.

IDF jet downs Hamas drone off the Gaza coast. IDF says UAV never entered Israeli airspace, vows not to allow violations of sovereignty.



ANTI-SEMITISM ON THE RISE

Chelsea Clinton: "2 months into 2017: JCC bomb threats, synagogue defamed, subway swastikas, Jewish cemetery desecrated. NOW will Trump condemn antisemitism?" **Hillary Clinton:** "JCC threats, cemetery desecration & online attacks are so troubling & they need to be stopped. Everyone must speak out, starting w/ @POTUS."

FINALLY -- Heard Just Now -- Trump on MSNBC: "Anti-Semitism is horrible and it's going to stop, it has to stop." *Q: So you're denouncing it now, once and for all?*
Trump: "Oh of course, I do it wherever I get a chance, I do it."

For fourth time in five weeks, JCCs evacuated, after phone calls on Monday threaten attacks in at least ten Jewish community centers across America. NBC News reported that JCCs in Birmingham, Cleveland, Chicago, St. Paul, Tampa, Albuquerque, Houston, Milwaukee, Nashville and Buffalo were evacuated.

White House, **Ivanka Trump** denounce JCC bomb threats.

Over 170 headstones vandalized in St. Louis Jewish cemetery.



TERRORIST IN TEHRAN

"At Tehran Gala, Cakes, Fruit and Anti-Israeli Slogans"

by Thomas Erdbrink: "Everything was in place on Tuesday for a gala celebration at Iran's annual conference in support of Palestinians. Awaiting the hundreds of guests was a table piled high with cakes and fruit, with plenty of tea to wash it all down and a placard saying, "Netanyahu: Go to Hell." Prominent seatings were reserved for the heads of Parliament for Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Syria, as well as the leaders of Islamic Jihad, Hamas and the Lebanese group Hezbollah. All three have offices in the Iranian capital and all have received money, intelligence and even weapons from Iran..." **[NYTimes]**

Iran's supreme leader calls Israel 'dirty chapter' of history

Speaking at the conference on Iran's support of the Palestinians, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei calls Israel "fake nation" and "cancerous tumor"

A Palestinian uprising against Israel "will begin a very important chapter in the history of fighting," he says.



DEALING WITH HEZBOLLAH

- ❖ Israel over the weekend warned the Lebanon-based terrorist group Hezbollah that any attack it may launch on it, be it from its bases in Lebanon or those in Syria, will meet a "colossal military retaliation," the London-based Arabic newspaper Al-Hayat reported Sunday.
- ❖ According to the report, the warning was conveyed to Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah directly via a third-party Arab official.
- ❖ On Wednesday ... Report: IAF strikes Hezbollah targets near Damascus. Lebanese media alleges Israeli fighter jets struck Hezbollah targets in Al-Qutayfah, northeast of the Syrian capital • Targets believed to include weapons shipment to Hezbollah, Syrian military post • Reports not corroborated by any Israeli source.



THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

Recognize Golan Heights as Part of Israel

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told US President Donald Trump that the United States should recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. The United States and the international community have never recognized Israeli sovereignty in the Golan Heights. Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in the Six-Day (defensive) war and then annexed in 1981.

Last week, we toured the Golan / Syria border by Jeep and once again reconfirmed in me the need for Israel to NEVER consider negotiating any terms that would require them relinquishing the Golan. Syria is a complete mess with so many factions fighting for control - the ONLY thing they have in common is their historic hatred of Israel! *Dan Stolebarger*



SAUDI / ISRAEL

- ❖ In apparent agreement with the Israelis, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister accused Iran of being the primary supporter of global terrorism. **"Iran remains the single main sponsor of terrorism in the world,"** Adel al-Jubeir declared in an address to the Munich Security Conference on Sunday. "It's determined to upend the order in Middle East, and until and unless Iran changes its behavior it would be very difficult to deal with a country like this."
- ❖ "I believe that the world has to make it clear to the Iranians that there is certain behavior that will not be tolerated, and that there will be consequences."
- ❖ **"The biggest and most brutal and sophisticated terror organization in the world is the Iranian Revolutionary Guard,"** Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman stated, noting the common ground between Israel and its Sunni Arab neighbors regarding Iran's aggression.
- ❖ **"For the first time since 1948, to the moderate Arab world, the Sunni world, the biggest threat for them is not Israel, not Zionists and not Jews, but Iran and Iranian proxies,"** Liberman declared.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

- ❖ On Thursday, after her first encounter with the UN Security Council, Ambassador Haley told reporters that she had asked its members to help her understand why, “when we have so much going on in the world, why is it that every single month we’re going to sit down and have a hearing where all they do is obsess over Israel?”



NEXT TOUR JOURNEY thru ISRAEL

APRIL 23 - MAY 1, 2017

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POLAND EXTENSION

MAY 2 - 8, 2017



The Sounds of Silence
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Email - dan@hgkfir.com