



KFIR

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of March 3, 2017



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HEADLINES

"Pence voiced support for Israel, vowing that Trump would "stand with" the Jewish state. "Israel's fight is our fight. Her cause is our cause. Her values are our values," Pence said to rising applause. "And under President Trump, America will stand with Israel.""

We will never allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon, this is my solemn promise,' VP tells RJC to standing ovation at Adelson's Vegas hotel

Coleman on Trump's response to the rise of anti-Semitism: "The fact is that anti-Semitism has been rising in this country a long time -- the BDS movement, anti-Semitism on college campuses, equating Zionism with racism. That has been a plague that has impacted us for a long time. All of a sudden, the media is discovering it now with the Trump presidency.

Amazon refuses to stop selling anti-Semitic and Holocaust-denying literature, despite pleas from Yad Vashem and mounting public pressure.

There are currently at least 15 Hamas attack tunnels crossing the border into Israel.



JCC BOMB THREATS

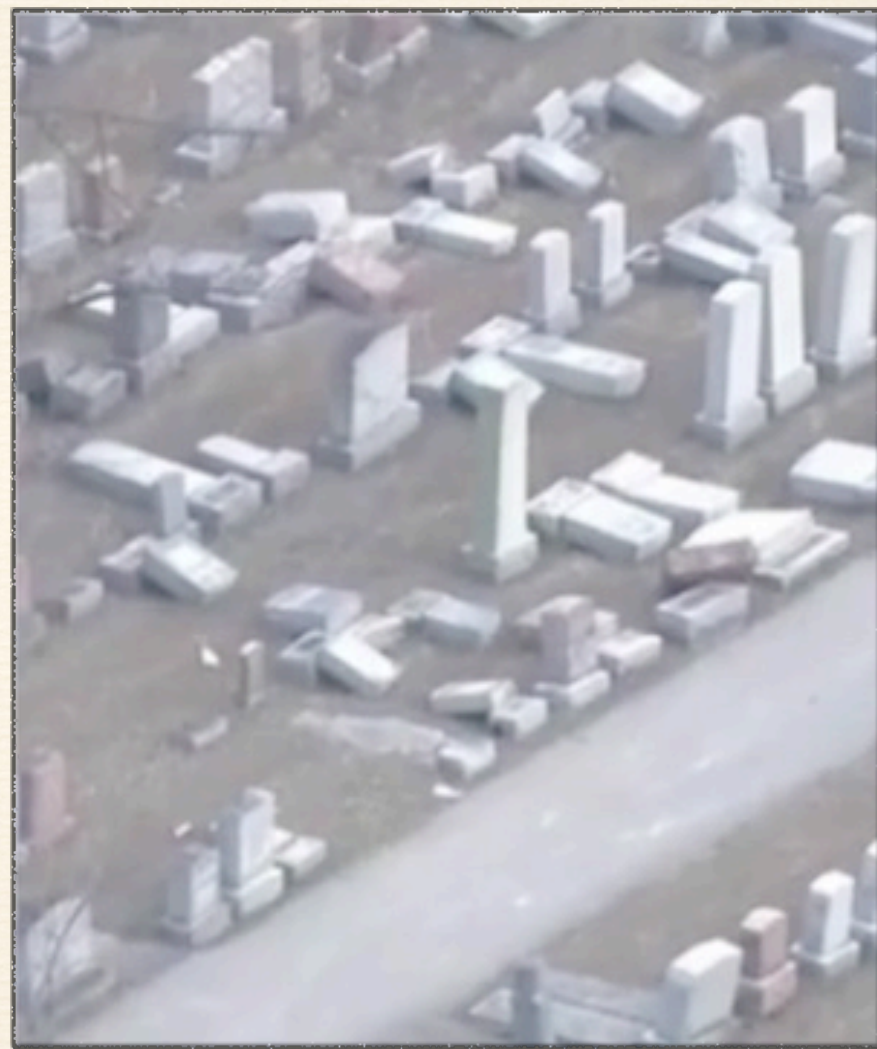


TALK OF THE NATION: "Bomb Threats Were Directed At Jewish Centers In 18 States In Just One Day" by Mike Hayes and Claudia Koerner: "Local media and police confirmed reports of threats on Monday in Alaska, North Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Michigan, Alabama, Maryland, Indiana, Virginia, Connecticut, Rhode Island, California, Arizona, Washington, and Nevada... The San Francisco office of the Anti-Defamation League also received a bomb threat Monday afternoon... The FBI and Department of Justice, meanwhile, have launched investigations into the rash of bomb threats." [[BuzzFeed](#)]



THE RISE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

- ❖ President Donald Trump is “deeply disappointed and concerned” by the ongoing upsurge in antisemitism across the US, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said on Monday. At a White House press briefing, Spicer referred to the recent desecration of two Jewish cemeteries – in St. Louis and Philadelphia – and the spate of telephone bomb threats targeting Jewish institutions.
- ❖ “The president continues to condemn these and any other form of antisemitic and hateful acts in the strongest terms,” Spicer said. “No one in America should feel afraid to follow the religion of their choosing freely and openly. The president is dedicated to preserving this originating principle of our nation.”
- ❖ On Monday, bomb threats were called into Jewish community centers and schools in 11 states.
- ❖ “Antisemitism of this nature should not and must not be allowed to endure in our communities,” David Posner – director of strategic performance at the JCC Association of North America –



AMERICA SWASTIKAS

- ❖ Anti-Semitism is taking on potentially “pandemic” dimensions globally, even in the US, and if left unchecked could grow into an immensely serious threat, one of American Jewry’s most senior leaders said this week, calling on world leaders to convene a global summit to forcefully denounce the phenomenon. “We saw anti-Semitism in Britain, we saw it in France, and now we see it’s spreading everywhere,” Hoenlein told The Times of Israel in its Jerusalem office on Sunday. “Look at the numbers of incidents in Germany, Scandinavia and other parts of the world. And now we see in America swastikas being painted, other expressions [such as phoned-in] threats or aggression against kids on campuses. So it spreads. It’s not isolated to one geographic locale. It’s like a virus that spreads. And you have to declare it for what it is.”



EMBASSY MOVE



Trump Warned Jordan and the PA

After the US received intelligence that both the Palestinian Authority and Jordan's King Abdullah II were planning a massive intifada against the State of Israel in order to prevent the Americans from relocating their embassy to Jerusalem, the Donald Trump administration warned both regimes, thus assuring that such attempts "would open hells gates for them." This American response proves that US President Donald Trump is tough on terrorists and dictators.



US AID TO THE PA

HAPPENING TODAY: Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) is holding a press conference today to introduce legislation, which would cut off US assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA). "The Taylor Force Act" is named after an American Army officer who was killed in Tel Aviv by a Palestinian terrorist last year while on an MBA entrepreneurship study abroad program.

-- Representatives Ted Budd (R-NC) and Mark Sanford (R-SC) introduced a similar piece of legislation in the House on February 1. The House bill has received 8 co-sponsors, all Republicans. During the last Congressional session, Graham, Dan Coats (R-IN) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) co-authored the Taylor Force Act. However, the bill never passed the Senate and received no Democratic support.



IAF ATTACKS GAZA

- ❖ Israeli Air Force jets on Monday afternoon bombed several targets in the Gaza Strip, after an early-morning rocket attack on Israel's south. "Three bombs were dropped by the air force on a Hamas military base east of Nusseirat refugee camp," south of Gaza city, a Palestinian security source said.
- ❖ The planes also made two raids against Hamas lookout posts along the border with Israel, east of Khan Yunis, and on a base of Islamic Jihad's military wing in the north of the strip, the source said.
- ❖ Israeli tanks along the border also fired at several targets, according to AFP.
- ❖ Gaza's health ministry said four Gazans were moderately injured by airstrikes east of Rafah, according to Palestinian reports.
- ❖ "In response to a rocket fired from Gaza that hit Israeli territory last night, the IAF targeted 5 Hamas positions throughout the Gaza Strip," the Israeli military said in a statement. "The IDF holds Hamas accountable for all attacks from the Gaza Strip that threaten Israel and her citizens."



CHRISTIANS IN SINAI

- ❖ Fleeing Muslim persecution, the Christian community is dwindling.
- ❖ Suspected Islamic terrorists gunned down a Christian man inside his home in Northern Sinai, officials and a priest said Friday. The attack is the latest in a string of sectarian killings that has sent hundreds of Christians fleeing and raised accusations the government is failing to protect the community.
- ❖ The terrorists stormed the home of Kamel Youssef, a plumber, on Thursday and shot him to death in front of his wife and children in the town of el-Arish, said two security officials and the priest.



EMBASSY ON HOLD

- ❖ Pence also substantially walked back Trump's campaign pledge to move the embassy to Jerusalem, saying the administration was "assessing whether the embassy should be moved," to tepid applause.
- ❖ Trump himself has walked back his embassy pledge since he assumed office last month, but sending Pence, who for years has been intimately close to the pro-Israel community, to deliver the message to a fiercely pro-Israel audience seemed to put an end to hopes that any move would happen soon, if at all. **"Pence Says U.S. 'Assessing' Move of American Embassy in Israel" by John McCormick:** "The president I know will be an unabashed advocate for a stronger Israel-American relationship," Pence said Friday evening at the annual meeting of the Republican Jewish Coalition. "We are also reviewing additional steps to demonstrate America's support, including assessing whether the American embassy in Israel should be relocated." [[Bloomberg](#); [Reuters](#)] • Pence, addressing Jewish Republicans, condemns rash of anti-Semitic vandalism [[Politico](#); [JewishJournal](#)]





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