



KFIR

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of April 7, 2017



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Holy Ground Explorations



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HEADLINES

INTERVIEW - Congressman Scott Taylor (R-VA) discussed his service in the Navy SEALs overseas, his work in Congress, and views on the Middle East in an interview with *Jewish Insider's* Aaron Magid. "Syria scares me. Syria is the most dangerous thing in the world right now," Taylor said about the U.S. campaign against ISIS. "Unlike any other time that I know of since World War II, you have so many powers playing in the same sandbox. Israel, Russia, Turkey, Iran and us. There is tremendous potential for flash points and the inability to de-conflict. I don't know exactly what the President's plan is right now... I am worried about increased forces in Syria. What is the plan, what is the goal? And I want to hear those things."

Also on Tuesday, Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon [stated](#), "The world cannot be silent in the face of the horrific massacre in Syria and allow this devastation to repeat itself. The UN must act immediately to put an end to the use of any chemical weapons and ensure their removal from Syrian territory. This is the UN's true purpose and it must fulfill this fundamental responsibility."



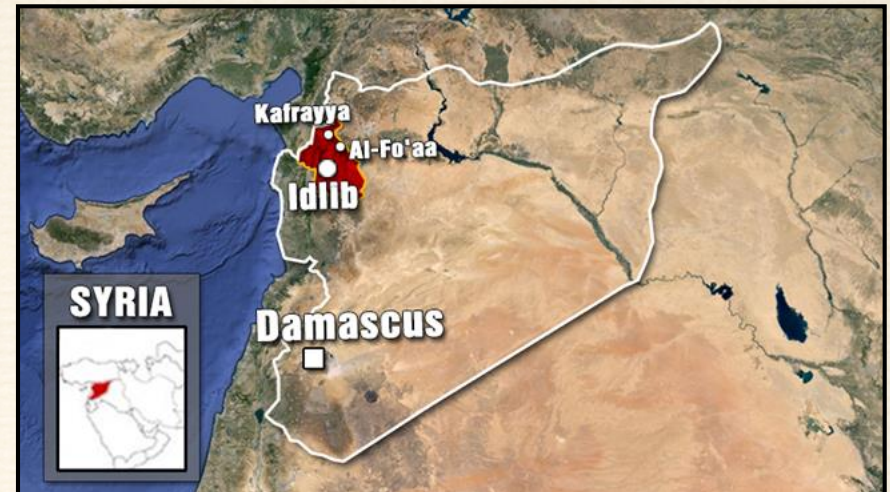
CHEMICAL WEAPON ATTACK

"When I saw pictures of babies suffocating from a chemical attack in Syria, I was shocked and outraged," Netanyahu stated on hearing the news of a deathly chemical-weapons attack on civilians.

More than 60 people were killed in an apparent chemical weapons strike by Syrian or Russian army jets on Tuesday in Syria's northwestern province of Idlib, according to British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR).

The Abu Dhabi-based *Sky News Arabia* said 67 civilians were killed and at least 200 were injured in the airstrike, which released "toxic gas."

The Syrian government did not comment, though it has previously rejected accusations that it practices chemical warfare.



NIKKI HALEY



U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley announced that she will refocus the U.N. Security Council away from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and instead toward longstanding issues that have been neglected in recent years, while she assumes the body's presidency this month.

"So much has been put towards Israel and the Palestinian Authority and not enough has been put towards some of the other issues," Haley said at a press conference Monday, noting that she will focus an April 20 Security Council debate around issues such as Iran's support for terrorism, Syria, Hezbollah and Hamas.

"That is our goal for the Middle East—open debate," she said.



NIKKI'S REMARKS AT THE UN

U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley did not mince words at the U.N. on Wednesday - warning that if the organization failed to act following the deadly attack in Syria, the Trump Administration may handle the situation without them.

"This Security Council thinks of itself as a defender of peace, security, and human rights," Haley said at a U.N. Security Council emergency meeting on Syria on Wednesday. "When the United Nations consistently fails in its duty to act collectively, there are times in the life of states that we are compelled to take our own action."

The suspected chemical attack that took place Tuesday in Khan Sheikhoun, Syria, has killed over 70 people, including children. Although Bashar Assad's Syrian government has denied any responsibility, the Trump Administration said it was holding them accountable.

Haley also called out Russia, which holds a seat on the Security Council, for enabling Assad.

"Assad has no incentive to stop using chemical weapons as long as Russia continues to protect his regime from consequences," she said.



ANTI-SEMITISM



For the first time since 1964, when the Anti-Defamation League began to track Americans' attitudes toward Jews, a majority of Americans polled said they were concerned about anti-Semitic violence. In line with this finding, 84% said the U.S. government should do more to combat anti-Semitism, an increase from the 70% who wanted more government intervention in the matter when the question was last asked in 2014.

A new study released today revealed that anti-Semitism on America's college campuses increased 40 percent last year and genocidal expression doubled in 2016. Maybe the most troubling finding is the drastic increase in genocidal expression toward Jews. Consisting of swastikas and graffiti to letters and posters calling for the killing of Jews, these incidents doubled from 2015 to 2016. Examples, according to AMCHA Initiative include, "Kill all Kikes," "GAS JEWS DIE," "Gas the Kikes," "Death to Israel and to all Jews," and "Holocaust 2.0."



APRIL 17 - PRISONER'S DAY

On April 17, the Palestinian Authority celebrates its annual "Prisoner's Day" and Fatah's student movement Shabiba has called for a day of terror against Israel. Fatah encouraged students and other Palestinians to use violence and "escalate the confrontation with the occupier:" "Let us turn April 17, 2017, into a fire that will burn the occupiers and burn the land like an inferno under the feet of the tyrants, and let's escalate the popular resistance (i.e., term used by Palestinians that includes murdering Israelis -Ed.) everywhere. Therefore, we call on our brave students and the masses of our people to escalate the confrontation with the occupier at all the places of confrontation." [Official Fatah Facebook page, March 29, 2017]

Fatah's student movement stressed that they are threatening to kill Israelis on April 17, by indicating the attacks would resemble past terror attacks in which 16 were murdered: "We hold the Nazi occupation gang responsible for what will happen. We warn against taking any steps of oppression against our brave prisoners. We declare in a clear manner that splits the sky: Fatah and its Shabiba are committed to a promise. We will not hesitate to burn the land under the feet of the tyrants. The picture in the post above shows Marwan Barghouti, a Fatah terror leader who is serving 5 life sentences for planning attacks in which 5 were murdered.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Don't threaten us with cutting off your aid. It will not work. I am not a Jew with trembling knees. I am a proud Jew with 3,700 years of civilized history. Nobody came to our aid when we were dying in the gas chambers and ovens. Nobody came to our aid when we were striving to create our country. We paid for it. We fought for it. We died for it. We will stand by our principles. We will defend them. And, when necessary, we will die for them again, with or without your aid." -

Menachem Begin told Joe Biden on 22 June 1982 - The US is having huge problems: with Chinese expansion plans; North Korean nuclear and ballistic rocket program; Islamic State; illegal and Islamic immigration; Obama Care, just a few - but the main 'concern' is still where Jews are building their homes!





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