

**KFIR**

# MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of May 19, 2017



Dan Stolebarger  
Holy Ground Explorations



[holygroundexplorations.com](http://holygroundexplorations.com)

# HEADLINES

- \* **Osama bin Laden's son** calls for attacks on Jews, Americans. Al-Qaeda propaganda video urges would-be lone-wolf attackers in West to 'look for Jewish targets everywhere'.
- \* Top Palestinian negotiator **Saeb Erekat** said on Sunday that Israel must recognize that its founding in 1948 was a "catastrophe" for the Palestinians and apologize for it "in order to achieve a just and lasting peace between Israel and Palestine."
- \* Palestinians in Hebron just elected this man (**Abu Sneineh**), who murdered 6 Israelis, to be their mayor. Only in the PA can murderers hold public office.
- \* When PA Chairman **Mahmoud Abbas** met with President Donald Trump at the White House, Abbas said that the Palestinians teach their children and grandchildren "**a culture of peace.**" But Abbas' embracing a "culture of peace" in Washington is meaningless when his schools in Ramallah embrace a culture of terror. **The Palestinian Authority has named at least 28 schools after terrorists and at least 3 schools after Nazi collaborators.**



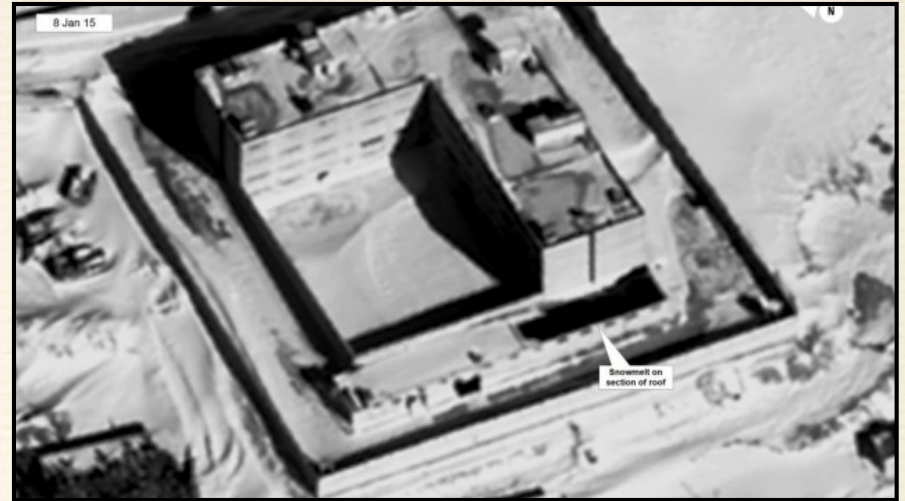
# SYRIAN CREMATORIUMS

WASHINGTON – The Trump administration accused the Syrian government Monday of carrying out mass killings of thousands of prisoners and burning the bodies in a large crematorium outside the capital. It also stepped up criticism of Iran and Russia for supporting the Syrian government.

The allegation came as US President Donald Trump is weighed options in Syria, where the US attacked a government air base last month in response to an alleged chemical weapons attack on civilians.

**The State Department said it believed that about 50 detainees a day are being hanged at Saydnaya military prison, about 45 minutes north of Damascus. Many of the bodies, it said, are then burned in the crematorium.**

**ISRAEL: Lawmakers urge Israel to bomb alleged Syria crematorium.** Opposition MKs, interior minister, Jewish groups recall inaction during the Holocaust in demanding military action to stop Assad atrocities.



# ISRAELI CALLS FOR ASSASSINATION

**An Israeli minister called for the assassination of Syrian President Bashar Assad on Tuesday, saying he “does not have a place in this world.”**

Speaking at a conference outside Jerusalem, Housing and Construction **Minister Yoav Galant**, a retired IDF general, said that in light of recent allegations that Assad’s regime carried out mass executions and burned the bodies of the victims, he had to be killed.

“The reality of the situation in Syria is that they are executing people, using directed chemical attacks against them, and the latest extreme – burning their corpses, something we haven’t seen in 70 years,” Galant said, in a reference to the Holocaust.

The minister said Assad’s actions in Syria amount to nothing less than a “genocide,” with “hundreds of thousands killed.”



# NIKKI HALEY

**Nikki Haley, said Tuesday that the US embassy should be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, upholding a campaign promise of US President Donald Trump, and that the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem is part of Israeli territory.**

Her remarks came amid an ongoing diplomatic spat between the US and Israel over whether the Western Wall is part of Israel or the West Bank – as one US consular staffer suggested – as well as speculation on whether Trump will fulfill his campaign promise to relocate the US embassy to Jerusalem, even as the president has since distanced himself from the move.

Regarding the Western Wall, Haley said: “I don’t know what the policy of the administration is, but I believe the Western Wall is part of Israel and I think that that is how we’ve always seen it and that’s how we should pursue it... We’ve always thought the Western Wall was part of Israel.”



# TERROR PAYOUTS CONFISCATED

Israeli security forces overnight Wednesday confiscated money given to the families of Hamas terrorists who carried out the 2014 kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teenagers, the army said. In a joint IDF, Shin Bet, Border Police and Israel Police operation in the southern West Bank city of Hebron, security forces raided dozens of targets, taking thousands of shekels that were given to the families by the Hamas terror group.

The IDF said in a statement that two cars and two computers given to the families as compensation were also confiscated.



# AN ISRAELI OP-ED

Two weeks ago, Mr. President, standing next to you at the White House, your guest Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority, [declared before you and the watching world](#), "I affirm to you that we are raising our youth, our children, our grandchildren on a culture of peace."

You would have been well within your rights, Mr. President, to stop Abbas, right there and then, and ask him: "Really? How do you square that solemn assertion with a [Palestinian educational system](#) that demonizes Israel, denies its existence, and encourages 'martyrdom' in the cause of the liberation of Palestine?" You could have said, "Now just hold on a second. You're not exactly creating 'a culture of peace,' are you, when you name streets and town squares in honor of terrorists who kill innocent Israelis, and provide stipends to jailed terrorists and to the families of terrorists."

You want to see courageous leadership. No more incitement. No more glorification of terrorism. An effort, in the interests of both sides, to confound the cynics and the doubters. And the extremists.

"I think there's a very, very good chance" to get a deal done, you said two weeks ago, with Abbas at your side. I'm not as optimistic as you are, Mr. President, and certainly not in the short term. I'm one of those doubters you spoke about. I fear that hatred for Israel, rejection of our history, and demonization of every aspect of our presence here is deeply embedded on the Palestinian side, and that many Israelis have lost hope in the face of intransigence and terrorism and are becoming increasingly intolerant.

But boy, would I love you to prove me wrong.



# PA - YES TO TERROR - NO TO HEALTHCARE!



An Arab hospital in Jerusalem has been forced to stop receiving patients after the Palestinian Authority failed to pay tens of millions of shekels it needs to purchase new medicine. The PA continues to pay an estimated \$10 million each month to terrorists in Israeli prisons and a further \$15 million a month to the families of terrorists who have carried out attacks against Israelis. The PA has refused to consider stopping the payments to terrorists in order to divert funds to other places, like the Augusta Victoria Hospital.





# QUOTE OF THE WEEK



LIKE A  
MUDDIED  
SPRING OR  
A POLLUTED  
WELL ARE  
THE RIGHTEOUS  
WHO GIVE  
WAY TO  
THE WICKED.  
PROVERBS  
25:26



# HGE - UPCOMING FALL TOURS

Israel - Off The Beaten Path  
with Petra Extension (optional)



Israel - NOV 12-20 / Petra - Nov 20-24, 2017



*Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good and walk in it, and find rest for your souls..." Jer. 6:16*

There are many paths in Israel. OFF THE BEATEN PATH will take in paths not found on "traditc tours - yet they are important paths, ones that should be seen to take in the full breadth of Israe Dan & Sharon Stolebarger and guide, Jane Ben-Ari as we give you a totally different type of expe Included will be a geo-political Jeep Tour on the Golan Heights - see for yourselves what is truly happening along this strategic border of Israel.



**HOLY  
GROUND**  
TREASURES

## OFF THE BEATEN PATH ITINERARY

**DAY 1:** Overnight in Tel Aviv right on the Mediterranean Sea.

**DAY 2 - 4:** Travel to Jerusalem where we will be staying inside the walls of the Old City for three nights. While in Jerusalem, visit **OLD SYNAGOGUE TOUR, RABBINICAL TUNNELS, TEMPLE INSTITUTE, BURNT HOUSE, JERICO** with **ST. GEORGE'S MONASTERY** and **FRIENDS OF ZION MUSEUM**. Also planned is an incredible landscape of the Judean desert on a fully guided **JEEP TOUR**.

**DAY 5 - 7:** Travel to the Galilee where we will stay for three nights at a kibbutz hotel right on the shores of the Sea, away from the hustle and bustle of Tiberias. Our time in the north includes: **TSIPORI, NAZARETH VILLAGE, CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION, MT. ARBEL** (with an option to hike up), **MAGDALA, GAMLA** (with hike to the synagogue) and **MT. BENTAL**. On Shabbat, we will have a Shabbat Service at our hotel. In addition, while in the Golan Heights, we will take a geo-political **JEEP TOUR** to hear and see for ourselves exactly what is happening on this strategic border.

**DAY 8:** We travel to **JAFFA** for one night. En route, visit the grottoes at **ROSH HANIKRA** and the **VALLEY OF ELAH**.

**DAY 9:** Before bidding farewell to Israel, we will enjoy a leisurely morning, a tour of **JAFFA**, as well as a **FAREWELL DINNER**. Those departing will be taken to the airport.

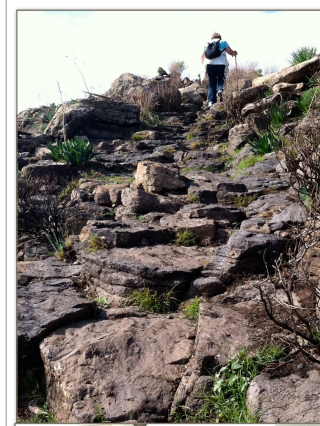
## BEATEN PATH INCLUSIONS:

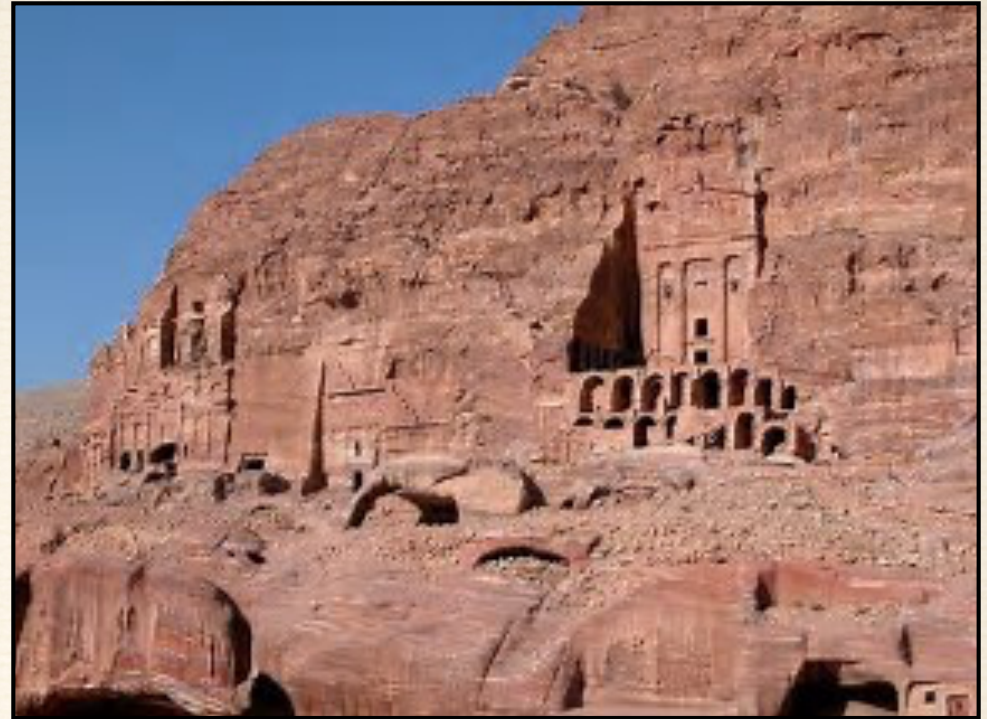
**Pricing:** \$2995 LAND ONLY per person double occupancy

## PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- ⊗ Hotels: 1 night Tel Aviv, 3 nights Jerusalem, 3 nights Tiberias, 1 night Jaffa
- ⊗ Meals: Breakfast daily, 4 Lunches, 5 Dinners
- ⊗ All Sightseeing and Entrance Fees including two JEEP TOURS
- ⊗ Gratuities for Guide and Driver
- ⊗ Baggage handling for one piece of checked luggage per person
- ⊗ All ground transportation

See Registration Form for complete pricing and the Terms & Conditions for the "fine print."





## **PETRA EXTENSION** (optional): Nov. 21-24, 2017 (1 night Jaffa; 2 nights Eilat, 1 night Petra)\*

Israel is the land where it all began and **PETRA** just may be the land where the "end" may be centered. It's one thing to see all the sites where prophecy has taken place and has been fulfilled, but then there are the places where the fulfillment is yet to come. During the Tribulation period, God will provide a refuge for His people...many believe that Petra is that place.

Also included is a visit to the replica **TABERNACLE at TIMNA** where you will learn more in 30 minutes about the Tabernacle than you probably have learned in a decade. All this plus the resort city at the southernmost tip of Israel, **EILAT**, where at night you can see the lights of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and Egypt, all at the same time. Add to this an overnight in Petra where our hotel is located right across the street from the entrance. This extension is not often offered so take advantage of this departure date.

\*NOTE: Those staying on for Petra will spend Nov. 20th in Jaffa before beginning the Petra extension on Nov. 21st.

For complete brochure information:

<http://holygroundexplorations.com/israel-tours/israel-off-the-beaten-path-tour-petra-extension/>





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