

**KFIR**

# MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of June 23, 2017



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Holy Ground Explorations



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# THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

- \* Russia's military says it may have killed leader of Islamic State. Russian Defense Ministry says it is trying to confirm information suggesting **Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi** was killed in a May airstrike near Raqqa.
- \* Senior White House adviser **Jared Kushner** is to travel to the Middle East this week to meet with Israeli and Palestinian officials in an effort to advance peace efforts pursued by his father-in-law US President Donald Trump. Kushner will meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas separately in the coming days, to discuss "their priorities and potential next steps."
- \* Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has instructed the defense establishment to examine the possibility of turning the area around **Damascus Gate** in Jerusalem into a sterile zone, at least in part, with the result that anyone passing through would face more rigorous security screening.
- \* The Hamas leadership in **Gaza has threatened Israel with "an explosion" if it does not supply electricity to Gaza at the expense of Israeli taxpayers.** Blackmail is, of course, part of the Hamas repertoire. One of the main reasons why Hamas launched thousands of rockets and sent terrorists into Israel via tunnel in the summer of 2014 was to solve its dire economic problem. Hamas needs electricity to build terror tunnels and produce weapons.



# HADAS MALKA, 23

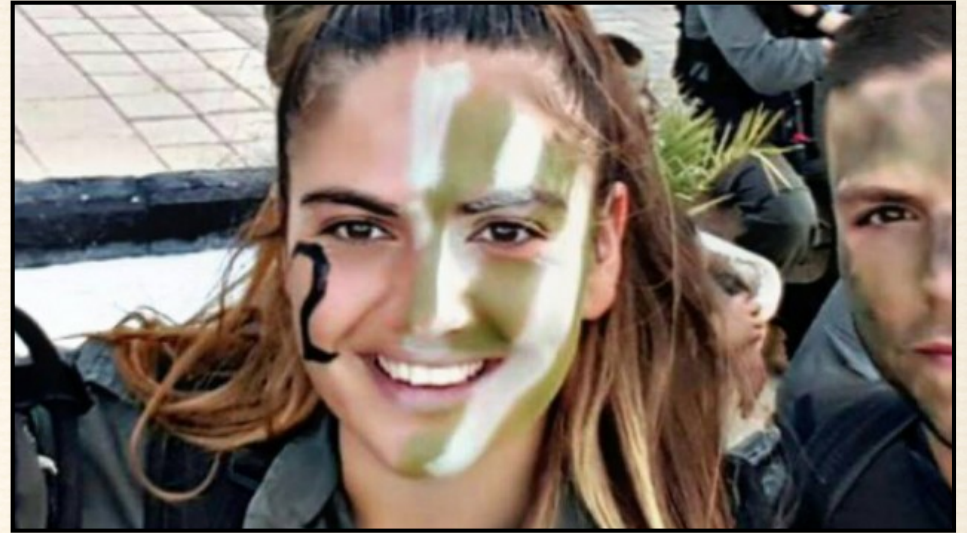
The Border Police officer killed in a coordinated stabbing and shooting attack in two areas in Jerusalem's Old City on Friday evening was identified late Friday as Hadas Malka, 23. The three attackers, who were allegedly members of Palestinian terrorist groups, were shot dead in the course of the attacks.

Malka was critically injured in a stabbing attack on Sultan Suleiman Street near Damascus Gate on Friday evening. She was transferred to Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus in Jerusalem where she underwent emergency surgery but later succumbed to her injuries.

She fought her attacker for several seconds while attempting to draw her weapon, according to a Border Police statement. Nearby troops shot and killed the assailant.

**BBC Headlines: Three Palestinians killed in knifing incident at the Damascus Gate.**

**ISIS Claims Responsibility for Deadly Friday Night Jerusalem Attack**



Policewoman killed in Jerusalem attack 'fought like a lioness' Thousands attend funeral of Border Police Staff Sgt. Hadas Malka, 23, killed in terrorist attack in Jerusalem Friday • "Everyone believes her actions saved lives," one friend says • Public security minister: We will not cower before wretched terrorists.



# ISIS or FATAH?

JTA – When the Islamic State claimed credit for an attack on Israeli soil for the first time Friday and vowed to strike again, the response in Israel was not fear but disbelief.

Israeli officials generally dismissed the Islamist terror group's assertion that it was behind the shooting and stabbing in Jerusalem that left a 23-year-old policewoman, Hadas Malka, dead along with her attackers.

Top US experts on the group said the officials would be wise to think again. US analysts warned that the Islamic State rarely bluffs about attacks. The group has long vowed to destroy the Jewish state, they said, and it may finally be trying to follow through.

"The [PA] Ministry of Health announced... that three young people were shot by occupation forces and died as Martyrs"



# HADAS MALKA'S KILLERS

Israel Police on Wednesday arrested two people in connection with last Friday's Palestinian terror attack in which Border Policewoman Staff Sgt. Hadas Malka was murdered at the Damascus Gate entrance to Jerusalem's Old City.

One suspect is the mother of one of the terrorists.

Police said the woman, a resident of the Palestinian village of Deir Abu Mash'al near Ramallah, where the terror cell was situated, was arrested on suspicion of forging contacts with the intent of committing a crime.

**She is also suspected of incitement related to recent statements lauding *shahids* [martyrs] and calling for the harming of Jews.**

**"We will meet in heaven. I'm proud. I wanted him to kill 20, 50, 100 of them," the Palestinian mother stated after the attack.**

Also on Wednesday, police arrested a resident of Issawiya, an Arab neighborhood of Jerusalem, on suspicion that he drove the terrorists to the site of the attack. He is suspected of knowing the terrorists' intentions to carry out the attack but failing to report them.



# IRAN & ISRAEL

**PM warns Iran after missile strike: Do not threaten us!** PM Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel watches Iran's every move.

Despite failed missile strike on Islamic State targets, Iranian official is upbeat: **"Israel is [Iran's] chief enemy and should tread carefully. I think it got the message the missiles sent."**

A day after Iran's rare missile strike against Islamic State forces in Syria, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Tehran not to test Israel's resolve.

"Our security forces constantly monitor Iran's activities in the area and its efforts to give sophisticated weapon systems to Hezbollah; we monitor their actions and their words, and I have one thing to say to Iran: Don't threaten Israel," Netanyahu said.



# HEBRON

***The PA is demanding that UNESCO register the Cave of the Patriarchs, Judaism's second-holiest spot, as a Palestinian World Heritage site,***

The Palestinian Authority (PA) is requesting that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee, whose annual meeting is scheduled for July 1 in Krakow, Poland, register the Old City of Hebron—including the Cave of the Patriarchs—as a Palestinian World Heritage Site, Israel's *Yediot Ahronot* reported.



# KEEP YOUR EYES ON TURKEY

**Turkey aims to tighten Muslim grip on Temple Mount. Ankara is reportedly pouring millions of dollars into east Jerusalem, the Old City and the Temple Mount in a concerted effort to position itself as a Muslim power in the city.**

As Turkey attempts to restore Ottoman glory, Jordan's influence is waning. A century after the fall of the Ottoman Empire, Turkish foundations and organizations are making a concerted effort to enhance the country's prominence as a Muslim player in Jerusalem by funneling millions of dollars to the eastern section of the city and the Temple Mount area, Israel Hayom has learned.

Among its endeavors, **TIKA has invested in restoring the Ottoman Muslim archives on the Temple Mount; placing a large water tanker for worshippers at the site; restoring Shasheet Street in the Old City's Muslim Quarter; renovating the Muslim cemetery at the foot of the Temple Mount's eastern wall; and in a considerable number of religious and community projects throughout east Jerusalem.**





# HEZBOLLAH THREATS

**Nasrallah says Hezbollah is preparing 'a big surprise' for Israel.** In speech to supporters, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah reveals Syria has armed his organization and other terrorist groups in Gaza with long-range missiles. Hezbollah is preparing a "big surprise" for Israel, the Shiite organization's secretary-general, Hassan Nasrallah, said on Wednesday in a speech marking the sixth anniversary of the Second Lebanon War.

**During the speech, delivered via video feed to a crowd of Hezbollah supporters in Beirut, Nasrallah proudly revealed that Syria had been arming Hezbollah, as well as groups in the Gaza Strip, with long-range missiles capable of reaching all of central Israel, including Tel Aviv.**



# CAUTION!

**"Trump Administration Pressuring Israel to Move Ahead With Peace Deal, Senior Israeli Minister Moshe Kahlon Says" by Barak Ravid:** "There's mounting American pressure to advance a deal," Moshe Kahlon told a conference in central Israel on Tuesday. "Something has happened. The American government feels it can reach an agreement, maybe because the good ties with the Israeli government allow Trump more influence than was possible during Obama's term." [[Haaretz](#)]

The one thing you shouldn't do is to excite beyond realistic expectations because when those expectations are disappointed, it can have consequences, including violence in the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem.

In respective readouts of Kushner's meetings with Netanyahu and Abbas yesterday, the White House said both sides "underscored that forging peace will take time and stressed the importance of doing everything possible to create an environment conducive to peacemaking." The WH described both meetings as "productive."



# NFL HALL OF FAMERS

Some of football's biggest Hall of Famers are in Israel this week for an historic visit with Jewish New England Patriots owner [Robert Kraft](#) aimed at promoting football in the Holy Land and exposing the players to the truth about the Jewish state.

**Six-time pro-bowler Jerome Bettis went even further, praising the "love affair that Israelis have with their country."** He said that he and his wife stayed up late discussing their experience in Jerusalem, and that the visit had "changed our lives."

**"Here, it feels like family," Staubach** said, going on to praise what he described as the country's "resilience" on the battlefield.

**"The people here are wonderful," said four-time Super Bowl champion Joe Montana.** Cornerback Lem Barney told media that he had been drawn to Israel for religious reasons. Barney, who serves as associate minister at Empowerment Church in Southfield, Michigan, described the "great spirituality" in the country. "This is a dream come true," he said.

**"Israel is the center of what's happening, and it's good to see it,"** added tight end Dave Casper.



# LONDON



Hezbollah supporters call for Israel's annihilation. Hezbollah and Palestine supporters staging a sit-down protest brought part of central London to a standstill on Sunday afternoon. A few hundred people marched down Regent Street, behind the Palestinian and Hezbollah terror flag, before sitting down at the junction with Oxford Street shortly after 4.30pm on Sunday. Many carried banners with messages including "Boycott Israel", "Freedom for Palestine" and "Zionism = racism".



# QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Who has inflicted this upon us?  
Who has made us Jews different from  
all other people? Who has allowed us  
to suffer so terribly up till now?  
It is God that has made us as we are,  
but it will be God, too, who  
will raise us up again.  
If we bear all this  
suffering and if  
there are still Jews  
left, when it is over,  
then Jews, instead  
of being doomed,  
will be held up  
as an example.

- Anne Frank



# Israel - Off The Beaten Path

with Petra Extension (optional)

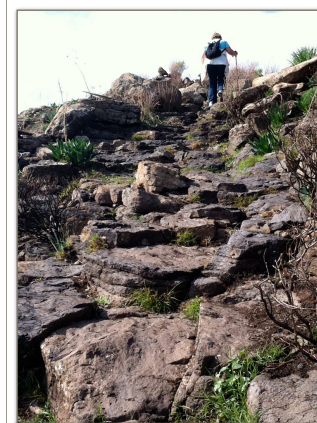


**Israel - NOV 12-20 / Petra - Nov 20-24, 2017**



*Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; 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 "traditional" tours – yet they are important paths, ones that should be seen to take in the full breadth of Israel. Join Dan & Sharon Stolebarger and guide, Jane Ben-Ari as we give you a totally different type of experience. 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.



## 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, JERICHO 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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**YouTube** - Weekly ME Update -

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3ZuVTJAfG0STUFQjWwnz3A>

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