

**KFIR**

# MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of July 28, 2017



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Holy Ground Explorations



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# THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

Hours before murderous attack, Fatah encouraged Palestinians to "rage," called for "escalation" and glorified death: "If I fall I will not be the first to die, and not the last to die #Rage!" Abbas encourages Palestinians to keep rioting in Jerusalem:

Senior defense officials now believe the tense atmosphere on the ground could spur potential terrorists to carry out more attacks. Consequently, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot on Saturday deployed reinforcements to the West Bank, ordering **forces to dig in for a protracted period of combatting a new wave of terrorist attacks.**

**The World Council of Churches (WCC) has declared its support for the Palestinian campaign against Israeli control of Jerusalem's holy sites,** describing new Israeli security measures at the Temple Mount as a "corrosive act in the midst of an already-fragile peace."

**Hundreds protest against Israel in Jordan, call to end peace treaty**

Jordanian police threaten to jail Israeli pilgrims for praying at the Tomb of Aaron





Hamas leader praises 'heroic' terrorist who killed 3 Israelis. Ismail Haniyeh says the stabbing murders of three family members in their Samaria home on Friday evening "lifted the heads of the nation high"

**UNBELIEVABLE ... PA TV presents murderer who slaughtered 3 as compassionate:** He could have killed the kids too, but "refused to harm" them PLO member calls murderer who stabbed 3 to death "a hero"; Murderer was "merciful" because he didn't kill the children. Official PA daily presents killer as man of "morals": "He could also have killed the wife... However, he preferred not to do so as she was a mother holding two of her children in her arms, and thus he proved that 'morals have a place, even in war'"

Palestinian Authority Ambassador to the UN Riyad Mansour **declined this week to condemn last Friday's terrorist attack in Halamish** – in which three Israelis were [stabbed to death at a Shabbat dinner](#) – and instead justified the act. Addressing reporters at the UN headquarters in New York City, Mansour said, "When you have an occupation with its ruthlessness...then **don't expect all Palestinians to be angels** [and] not to react to it."

**Survey: 77% of Israelis oppose removing Temple Mount metal detectors**

During a condolence call to the Salomon family, the Israeli leader said, **"it's time for the death penalty for terrorists."**





# TERROR ON SHABBAT

The family had gathered for a Friday night Shabbat dinner to celebrate the birth that morning of a grandchild. The Shabbat table was covered with a bright white tablecloth, laden with snacks, bottles of cola and an unopened bottle of whiskey.

They were waiting for other guests to arrive, the door of their home at the settlement of Halamish apparently open. Instead, a 19-year old Palestinian, Omar al-Abed, from a nearby village, burst in armed with a large knife and began stabbing the members of the family. There were apparently 10 people in the house when he entered.

He killed the grandfather of the family, Yosef Salomon, 70, his daughter Chaya Salomon, 46, and son Elad Salomon, 36. The terrorist was wounded by the shooting. Some reports said that as medics tried to save the victims, he jumped up and tried to attack them, before being subdued again.

The army said it appeared Abed had posted a Facebook post detailing his intention as he walked toward the community. He reportedly had a Quran with him. Before crossing the fence, he apparently performed some type of purification ritual, anticipating he would be killed. Empty water bottles were found at the site.





# SLAY FOR PAY

The Palestinian terrorist who brutally murdered three members of the Salomon family will highly benefit from the PA's "Pay-for-Slay-Program."

The family of Omar al-Abed, the knife-wielding Palestinian terrorist who brutally murdered three members of the Salomon family during their Shabbat dinner on Friday, will enjoy a generous payment from the Palestinian Authority (PA) for killing Jews.

**As a result of the PA's program to pay Palestinians who commit terror attacks - sometimes termed the "Pay-for-Slay-Program" - the al-Abed family is expected to receive a monthly lifetime salary of \$3,120,** Liel Leibovitz reported Sunday in Tablet Magazine. This sum is typically given to terrorists sentenced to 30 years or more in prison.

**Just for comparison, an average Palestinian engineer earns about \$1,300 per month.**

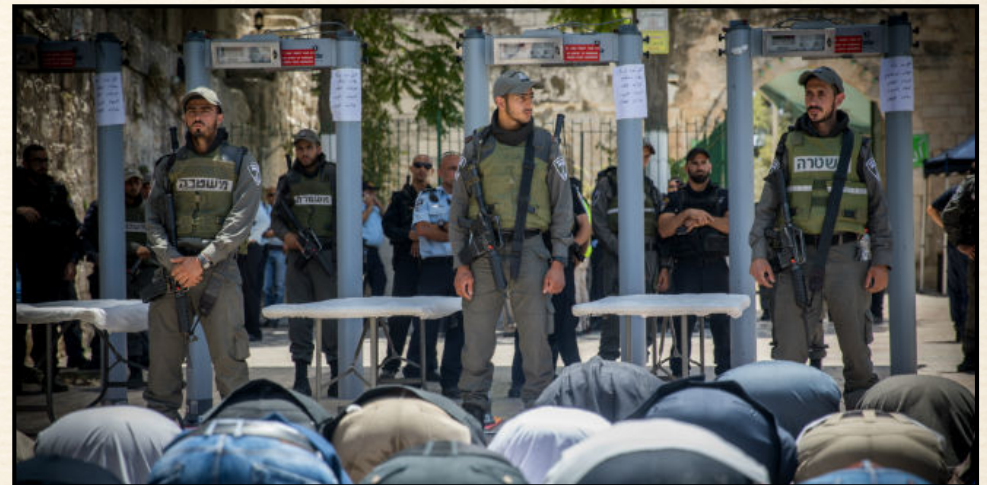
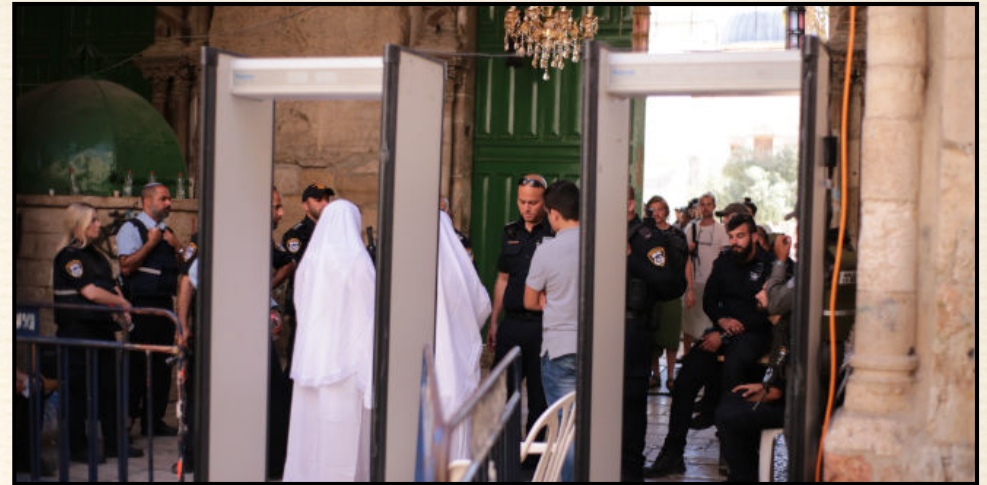




# TEMPLE MOUNT SECURITY

Israel responded with new security measures, including metal detectors that have been met with unjustified outrage. It's of little consequence to the enraged that security is common at holy sites throughout the world and the new measures will protect all worshipers visiting the Temple Mount. But then, reason can't compete with a good narrative, and the narrative that Jews are threatening the al-Aqsa Mosque is a surefire way to win the hearts and minds of the Palestinian public.

Jerusalem is a tinderbox. The city's Muslim leadership called for the closure of all mosques last Friday and urged all Muslims to converge on the Temple Mount. Tens of thousands of worshipers were expected to visit the site, creating an extraordinarily volatile situation.





# TEMPLE MOUNT VICTORY

**Palestinians and Arab MKs declared 'victory' Tuesday as Israel reversed security measures at the Temple Mount, and said their struggle for control over the compound also extends to the Western Wall.**

MK Taleb Abu Arar (Joint List) stressed that "Jews have no rights at al-Aqsa Mosque," and added that Muslims' fight against Israel would continue.

**Next up will be the Muslims claim of the al-Buraq Wall (the Western Wall), which Muslims demand to be returned to our sovereignty."**

Muslims consider the Western Wall to be the site where Mohammed tied his horse, Buraq, before ascending on his "Night Journey" to the heavens from "the furthest mosque", which many Muslims identify with the al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount.





# CHRISTIAN GROUPS SIDE WITH PA

International Christian Groups Gang Up on Israel Over Temple Mount Violence

A European Christian pro-Israel group slammed international Christian institutions on Monday for standing behind Arabs, not Israel, in the current conflict around the Temple Mount and placing blame for recent violence on the Jewish state, the *Jerusalem Post* [reported](#).

“It is simply wrong to blame the Israeli government for wanting to protect those entering the Temple Mount after the recent killings,” [European Coalition for Israel](#) Founding Director Tomas Sandell said.

“Metal detectors are today a part of standard security procedures at holy sites in the world, from the Vatican to Mecca. These measures are put in place simply in order to protect people and are not meant to deny anyone access,” he pointed out.

The comments came in response to a growing number of international Christian ministries and organizations blaming Israel for “inciting” the violence by installing metal detectors at the Temple Mount after a Palestinian [terror attack on July 14 left two Israeli policemen dead](#) at the holy site.

The Geneva-based World Council of Churches (WCC) on Sunday put its support behind the [Palestinian riots and protests](#) against Israel following the new security measures, hotly defending the “historical status quo”, which denies equal rights to Jews and Christians on the site.





# CATHOLIC CHURCH

**In the wake of the growing violence, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem released a statement. Signed by the heads of all 13 Christian communities in Jerusalem, it condemned the recent escalation of violence at the Temple Mount, but did so in language that clearly favored the Palestinians and condemned Israel. The statement referred to the site by its Arabic names, disregarding any Jewish or Christian connection to the site.**

The statement said that the violence was due solely to a change in the status quo, i.e. placing metal detectors at the entrances to the Temple Mount.

**“We are worried about any change to historical (Status Quo) situation in al-Aqsa Mosque (Haram ash-Sharif) and its courtyard, and in the holy city of Jerusalem. Any threat to its continuity and integrity could easily lead to serious and unpredictable consequences, which would be most unwelcome in the present tense religious climate.**

**The statement made no mention of the Muslim terror attack that led to Israel placing the metal detectors at the entrances to the site. Nor did it refer to the horrific Palestinian terror attack on Friday.**





# FAKE NEWS HEADLINES

***A former IDF lone soldier is outraged by the moral equivalence applied to violent Palestinian rioters and innocent Jews celebrating the birth of a child, even by "some of our own."***

How can one compare the murder of three innocent Jews, eating Shabbat dinner and celebrating the birth of a child, to the death of three Palestinians partaking in a violent riot over the installation of enhanced security at a Jerusalem holy site?

There is good and there is evil. One should see the difference, says a distraught former IDF soldier, noting that "some of our own" have also lost their moral compass.

Where is their dignity?





# NO CONDEMNATION

**Consistent with Palestinian Authority behavior throughout last year's terror wave, there has been no Palestinian condemnation of Friday's terror attack in which a Palestinian terrorist stabbed 3 Israelis to death in their home.**

Likewise, Abbas' hypocrisy regarding "terror" is a continuation of his behavior in the past. While he refuses to condemn terror attacks against Israeli civilians, he repeatedly proclaims to the world that he is against terror. Less than two days after the horrific Palestinian attack, Abbas - ignoring the attack altogether - even emphasized to Palestinian scholars just how much Palestinians are against terror:

"We, the State of Palestine, are convinced that terrorism must be fought everywhere, and we have at least 83 protocols with various countries around the world to combat violence and terrorism."





# JORDANIAN EMBASSY

A Jordanian man stabbed and lightly wounded an Israeli security officer at the Israeli embassy in Amman on Sunday before he was shot dead, a security source said. A second Jordanian was also killed.

The incident occurred late Sunday afternoon, but was kept under gag order by the Israeli military censor for 11 hours until Monday morning.

It took place at "a residential building inside the compound of the Israeli embassy," Jordanian police said in a statement.

As of Monday morning, the Israeli guard was being prevented by Jordanian authorities from leaving the country. Jordanian officials were seeking to question him, and Israel was refusing to allow this, sparking a diplomatic crisis.

"I assured the security guard that we will see to bringing him back to Israel; we have experience in this," he said. "I told both of them that we are holding ongoing contacts with security and government officials in Amman, on all levels, in order to bring the incident to a close as quickly as possible."





# GAZA ROCKETS

Israel has been hit with rocket fire from Hamas-ruled Gaza multiple times since Sunday morning, amid escalating tension over the Temple Mount holy site in Jerusalem.

A rocket fired from Hamas-controlled Gaza landed in Israel's Eshkol Regional Council in the northwestern Negev Sunday night. An IDF tank responded by attacking Hamas outposts in Gaza.

"As a terrorist organization, Hamas is the ruler of the Gaza Strip, and it is responsible for any attempt to harm the state of Israel," the IDF said.

Earlier Sunday, a rocket from Gaza was fired at the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon. The rocket exploded mid-air and caused no injuries or damage, according to the IDF.





# PA FREEZES COOP

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas announced late Friday he was freezing all contacts with Israel.

I, on behalf of the Palestinian leadership, announce... a freeze of all contacts with the occupation state on all levels until Israel commits to canceling all the measures against our Palestinian people in general and Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa mosque in particular," Abbas said to applause from officials convened in PA headquarters in Ramallah.

He specifically castigated the deployment of metal detectors at the Temple Mount compound – placed there by Israel after a July 14 terror attack in which three Arab-Israelis shot dead two Israeli police officers there with guns they had smuggled into the holy site. Abbas called the measures "falsely presented as a security measure to take control over Al-Aqsa mosque."

The dramatic statement from the PA president came after a day of riots around the Old City and the Jerusalem area. [Three Palestinians were reported killed](#) and some 200 others were wounded.





# ALAN DERSHOWITZ

Professor Alan Dershowitz told us that he was “disappointed” that Washington did not back Israel more wholeheartedly in this crisis. The Trump administration should have “unequivocally come down on the side of Israel and demand that there be metal detectors and videos to indicate that the highest priorities will be to save human lives and that the Palestinian Authority is dead wrong in using these murders as yet another excuse to incite violence,” he asserted. “I wish the U.S. would take a stronger stance on behalf of the safety and security of Israelis on the Temple Mount.”





# QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Abu Muhammad al-Adnani in a [May 2016 speech](#): "[W]ould we be defeated and you [the U.S.] be victorious if you were to take Mosul or Sirte or Raqqa or even take all the cities and we were to return to our initial condition? Certainly not! True defeat is the loss of willpower and desire to fight."





# 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  
TOURS**

## 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.

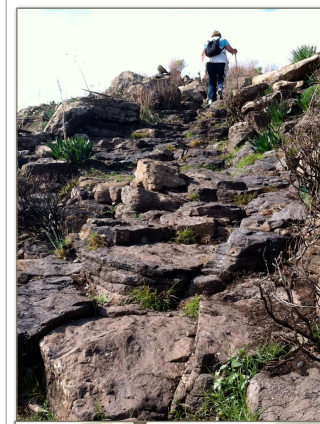
## BEATEN PATH INCLUSIONS:

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

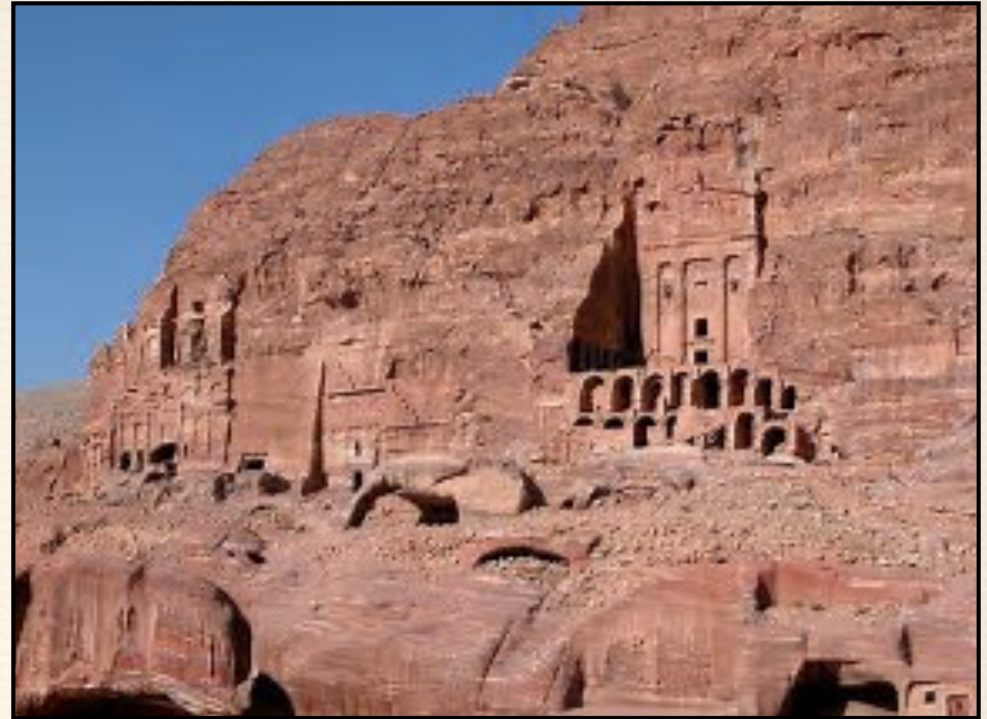
## PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- ⊗ 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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