



KFIR

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of July 7, 2017



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holygroundexplorations.com

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

"'Even if I will have to leave my position, I will not compromise on the salary (*rawatib*) of a Martyr (*Shahid*) or a prisoner, as I am the president of the entire Palestinian people, including the prisoners, the Martyrs, the injured, the expelled, and the uprooted.' [PA] President Mahmoud Abbas." [Official Fatah Facebook page, July 2, 2017]

Palestinian cleric Sheikh Nadhal Siam, also known as Abu Ibrahim, had threatening words for Americans, Europeans, and the current Arab rulers, in an address at the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount. "Allah, help us to annihilate all Americans ..."

After almost a two-year ban on visits by Israeli lawmakers to the Temple Mount in an effort to quell violence, Netanyahu has approved a week-long trial run.



TRIBUTE TO TERRORISTS

IDF forces confiscated a monument in the PA-administered city of Jenin to Palestinian terrorist Khaled Nazzal, who carried out one of the bloodiest attacks ever against Israeli children.

IDF forces on Thursday night entered the Palestinian Authority-administered city of Jenin in Samaria, where they dismantled a monument paying tribute to terrorist Khaled Nazzal.

Nazzari perpetrated what is known as the Ma'a lot Massacre, one of the deadliest attacks ever against Israeli children. In May 1974, he and two other members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine took 115 civilians hostage, mostly youngsters on a school trip, in the city of Ma'alot in the Western Galilee.

The ordeal lasted for two days and ended when the IDF's elite Golani Brigade stormed the building. **The terrorists murdered 26 hostages; 22 were children. Another 68 people were wounded.**

Last week, the Jenin municipality temporarily removed the monument after being warned by Israel that it would be confiscated. It was reinstalled soon afterwards. The honoring of terrorists, Israel stresses, incites violence against Israeli civilians.

"Palestinian President Abbas tells the world that he educates Palestinian children for peace. That's a lie," Netanyahu tweeted regarding the monument.



UNESCO STRIKES AGAIN

"Nothing is more disgraceful than UNESCO declaring the world's only Jewish state the 'occupier' of the Western Wall and Jerusalem's Old City," Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, said in a statement released minutes after the vote.

"Yesterday, I toured the City of David and the Old City with UN ambassadors from around the world and explained the deep and ancient connection between the Jewish people and the holiest sites of our nation. No faux 'heritage committee' can sever the bonds between our people and Jerusalem."

"No politicized decision of UNESCO will ever move one brick from a wall in Jerusalem, nor will it succeed in separating between Jerusalem and the Jewish nation, nor will it succeed to rewrite our history in Jerusalem."



18 TIMES IN A WEEK

Israel has no desire to launch military action anywhere, but will not accept spillover fire from the Syrian civil war, Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman told military correspondents Sunday. He was referring to the many stray rockets and mortars from the Syrian Golan Heights that have been hitting Israel consistently over recent weeks.

"Even if there is spillover, not intentional shooting, it's spillover. We are responding and will continue to respond increasingly harshly to every incidence of spillover. We aren't willing to accept it," Lieberman said.

Touching on attempts to solve the Syrian conflict, he said a potential deal would not necessarily obligate Israel.

"I'm in favor of an agreement, but we won't accept any deal the Iranians are involved in or that allows an Iranian and Hezbollah presence on the border," Lieberman said. He added that Israel reserves the right to operate freely.



HAMAS & GAZA

Three years after Operation Protective Edge in the Gaza Strip, Hamas faces growing challenges that could prompt it to provoke a fresh round of violence against Israel.

The 2014 military campaign dealt a debilitating blow to the infrastructure and image of the terrorist group that rules the Gaza Strip. **Hamas' popularity among the Palestinian people is steadily declining**, and its ties with the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamic State-affiliated terrorist groups in the Sinai Peninsula are steadily eroding what little legitimacy it has in moderate Arab states.

It is not for nothing that Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and other senior members of the Hamas political bureau cannot find a single Arab country willing to [host](#) them.

Since the conclusion of the 2014 military campaign, Hamas has spared no effort to restore its military capabilities and infrastructure. The organization rules Gaza's population with a strong hand, exploiting the public sphere solely for its own benefit. Hamas consistently prioritizes its military interests over the needs of the Palestinian people, forcing the population of some 2 million to settle for scraps. This policy, for the most part, is the brainchild of hard-line Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar.

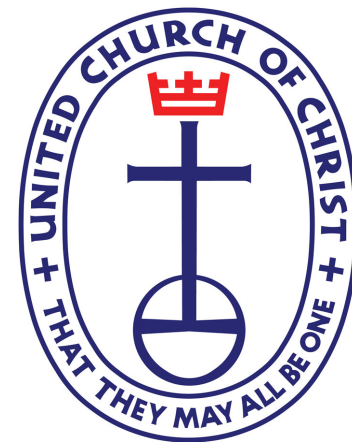


CHURCH CONDEMNS ISRAEL

The UCC passed its latest resolution in decades of anti-Israel activism.

The United Church of Christ (UCC)—one of the largest mainstream Protestant churches in America, with 915,000 members—overwhelmingly approved a resolution condemning Israel for its alleged treatment of Palestinian children.

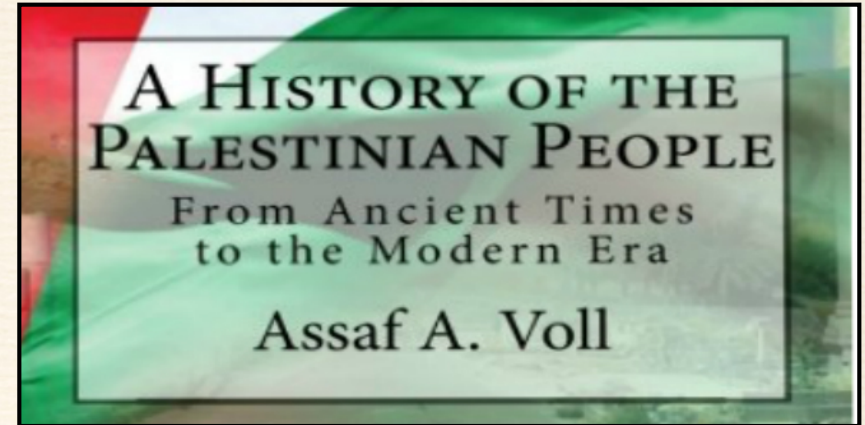
Oddly, the resolution calls for an end to Israel's "military occupation of Palestinians living in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza" even though Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005 and transferred the territory to the Palestinian Authority (PA). Hamas has ruled Gaza since ousting the PA leadership in a bloody coup in 2007. The Hamas charter calls for the destruction of Israel.



NICE READ

Amazon has Removed the Book!

Customers who bought the book "A History of the Palestinian People: From Ancient Times to the Modern Era" by Assaf A. Voll for \$7.99 found themselves looking at 120 blank pages - a most striking way of making the writer's point that the Arab "Palestinian People" is a late twentieth century invention.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Get your fire back. It's not
over until God says it's over.
Start believing again. Start
dreaming again. Start
pursuing what God
put in your heart.



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 "tradititc 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.



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, GAMLAL** (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.

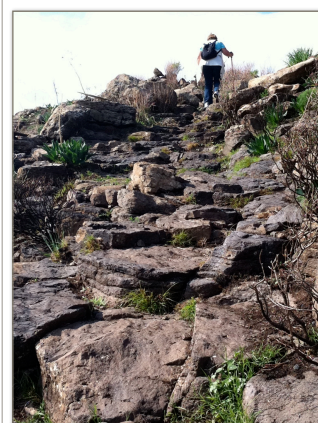
BEATEN PATH INCLUSIONS:

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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