



KFIR

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of September 15, 2017



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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

Lebanon and Syria Complain to UN About Israeli Airstrike Against Syrian Chemical Weapons. Analysts assume Syria and Hezbollah won't retaliate against an alleged IDF airstrike in Hama, but say Israel should get ready just in case.

Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah is warning that a future war with Israel "could open the way for hundreds of thousands of fighters from all over the Arab and Islamic world to participate".

Nadav Argaman says the Gaza-based terror group is ready for renewed conflict with Israel. The head of the Shin Bet security service said Sunday that Hamas is setting up a base in Lebanon with Iranian support as part of its ongoing efforts to deepen its connections with the Islamic Republic's "Shiite axis."

Speaking in Herzliya, Dr. Sebastian Gorka, former deputy assistant to President Trump, says **moving the US embassy to Jerusalem was strongly resisted by Obama administration bureaucrats still working in the executive department.**



THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

Ron Dermer (Israeli Ambassador to the United States) - "Israel hopes that the passage of the Taylor Force Act will finally send a message to the Palestinian Authority that the days when it is internationally acceptable to pay people to kill Jews are over."

Adding to stabbings, car-rammings, explosives and other types of barbaric attacks across the globe, **food poisoning could become the newest tactic used by Islamic State (ISIS) terrorists. British and American supermarkets could be the upcoming targets of this new form of mass-casualty attacks.**

The director of the Shin Bet domestic security agency blames an uptick in attempted terror attacks during the months of July and August on the tension surrounding the Temple Mount, which in mid July was the site of a shooting attack that left two police officers dead.



TERRORISM ON DECLINE?

The head of Israel's Shin Bet (Israel's Security Agency) briefed the Israeli Cabinet on Sunday about the scale of the current terrorist threat.

Nadav Argaman, head of the Shin Bet, told government ministers that Israel has prevented 200 terrorist attacks from more than 70 local terrorist cells since the beginning of 2017. Argaman said the security reality in the West Bank was "fragile" and "characterized by heightened sensitivity to incidents of a religious hue ... with emphasis on the methods of stabbing, ramming and shooting."

Argaman reported that Hamas is making efforts to carry out terrorist attacks in Judea and Samaria to undermine the relative stability, but is having difficulty doing so due to the steps taken by Israeli security forces.



TRUMP & TWO STATE SOLUTION

*Although he has not given up, **Trump seems less optimistic regarding chances for a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.***

In conversation with Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at the White House in Washington, US President Donald Trump's tone regarding prospects for an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal seemed less hopeful than just a few months ago, although he has not given up.

In discussion Thursday to the Kuwaiti leader, Trump seemed less confident on this issue, describing the initiative as one of the most "complex and difficult," according to the *AFP* news agency.

"I think we have a chance, I think the Palestinians would like to see it happen, I think the Israelis would like to see it happen," he said, *AFP* reported. "I think there is a chance there could be peace, but then again I say that a little bit reluctantly... we are going to give it our best."

One of the reasons for Trump's waning enthusiasm is likely Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas' refusal to end the PA policy of funding terror and glorifying so-called Martyrs, in defiance of US demands.



NORTH KOREA & IRAN

"North Korea 'secretly helped by Iran to gain nuclear weapons', British officials fear" by Ben Riley-Smith:

"The Foreign Office is investigating whether "current and former nuclear states" helped Kim Jong-Un in his drive to mount nuclear warheads on missiles. **Senior Whitehall sources told The Sunday Telegraph it is not credible that North Korean scientists alone brought about the technological advances. Iran is top of the list of countries suspected of giving some form of** assistance, while Russia is also in the spotlight... "North Korean scientists are people of some ability, but clearly they're not doing it entirely in a vacuum," said one Government minister." [[Telegraph](#)]

Michael Oren: "British officials say Iran assists North Korean nuclear program. No surprise but what's the world going to do about it?" [[Twitter](#)]



PEACE PARTNERS?

The Supreme Shari'ah Judge of the Palestinian Authority accuses the US ambassador to Israel of being "motivated" by a satanic urge.

Mahmoud Al-Habbash is the Supreme Shari'ah Judge of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and also serves as Advisor on Religious and Islamic Affairs to the head of the PA, Mahmoud Abbas.

US and Israeli officials go out of their way to speak about Abbas with respect, despite his being a Holocaust denier and terror financier. This respect is only a one-way street though.

Al-Habbash made shockingly disrespectful statements in a sermon Friday, in the presence of Abbas, which was televised on official PA TV.

This top adviser uses words like "idiocy" and "satanic urge" to describe America's top diplomat to the Jewish state.



LAILA GHANNAM

Palestinian terrorists, who “perfume the ground with the scent of their blood,” are role models for Palestinian society, declared the Governor of Ramallah.

District Governor of Ramallah Laila Ghannam declared that the Palestinians will stay faithful to the “path” of the “martyrs,” whose blood “perfumes the ground.”

Palestinian Media Watch has documented Ghannam as an avid supporter of terrorist murderers. On the morning after murderer Muhannad Halabi killed two Israelis in the Old City Ghannam posted on Facebook the following “poem” in praise for these “martyrs”:

“Palestine’s morning
A morning fragranced by the blood of the martyrs
(Shahids)
The morning of wounded Jerusalem
Have a morning of pride and honor.”

PMW has also documented the Palestinians’ almost cult-like fascination with the “blood of the martyrs.”



TEEN TALK BARBIE

A Quran-quoting, hijab-sporting Barbie look-alike recently hit the shelves in Saudi Arabia. Is the Islamic doll on its way to America?

For over half a century, young girls across the globe have treasured Barbie dolls. The classic toy is now available in a variety of styles, ethnicities, and nationalities.

Western-style Barbies, however, will now face competition from a new version of the classic doll, which sports **Muslim garb, including a “hijab” head covering. The doll, which is called “Jenna the Quran Teacher,” is being sold by a United Arab Emirates-based (UAE) company, which is sourcing the dolls from a Chinese factory.**

While Teen Talk Barbie asks questions such as, “Will we ever have enough clothes?” and “Wanna have a pizza party?”, Jenna recites four verses from the Quran. In fact, the doll’s ability to train young girls to repeat these verses is one of the primary selling points touted in a YouTube video advertising the doll.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"The air strike in Syria this week is a loud shot with many implications in an ongoing war that Israel cannot and will not lose. Israel has red lines and when crossed they will take action!" Benjamin Netanyahu

"Evacuating Settlements worse than eating pork on Yom Kippur" Haredi MK Gafni



HGE UPCOMING TOURS

HOLY GROUND EXPLORATIONS ISRAEL TOURS



'OFF THE BEATEN PATH' TOUR

HIGHLIGHTS: Jeep Tours - Judean Desert and the Golan Border

Pre Tour - PETRA*

***Nov 9-12 / Beaten Path -Nov 12-20, 2017**

2018 ISRAEL TOURS

'EXPERIENCE ISRAEL' - APR 22-MAY 1

'JOURNEY THRU ISRAEL' - MAY 2-10

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