



KFIR

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of September 8, 2017



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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was "begging for war," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said Monday. "Enough is enough. Our country's patience is not unlimited," Nikki Haley tells Security Council.

"Haley Compares Iran to North Korea in Criticizing Nuclear Accord" by Nick Wadhams and Kambiz Foroohar: **"Missile technology cannot be separated from the pursuit of a nuclear weapon," Haley said... "If we continue to not look at the Iranian activity, we will be dealing with the next North Korea."** [[Bloomberg](#)]

Israel's national existence is again being threatened, this time by a three-front war being engineered by Iran. (Syria, Hezbollah / Lebanon, and Gaza).



ISRAEL BOMBS SYRIA

REPORT: "Syria Says Israel Bombed a Military Base" by Ben Hubbard: **"Syria accused Israel on Thursday of conducting an overnight strike on a military base said by analysts to house chemical weapons and advanced missiles."**

The Syrian military reported the attack, saying it killed two people near the town of Masyaf in western Syria and caused unspecified material damage.

Israeli officials did not comment on the strike, but a Syrian monitoring group and a former Israeli official said it had targeted a research site that produced chemical weapons." [[NYTimes](#)]

Reports say the attack came from Lebanese air space. Israel has not commented. It would be the first Israeli airstrike in Syria since the US and Russia agreed on a partial ceasefire in July – a ceasefire Israel was not party to. The attack also took place one day after a [UN report](#) accused the Assad regime forces of using chemical weapons more than two dozen times.



IRAN & THE GOLAN

The US will reportedly allow Iranian-backed militias within 10 km of the Israeli Golan Heights.

The report appeared to back up Russian media claims that Moscow has ignored pleas from Israel to prevent Iran from exploiting Syria's ongoing civil war to expand its military influence into Syrian territory . . .

The report said the US agreed that Iranian-backed militias could be positioned as close as 8-16 kilometers (five to ten miles) from the Jordanian border and the Golan Heights, less than half the originally sought 32 kilometers (20 miles) distance.

Meanwhile, Asharq al-Awsat reports that Russia is now in full control of Syrian airspace.

This includes advanced early warning and control aircrafts that could "paralyze" the capacity of Israel and the US Marines to launch airstrikes against Syrian territories with "cruise" missiles, which Washington used last April when it attacked the Shayrat Air Base in the Homs governorate.



RUSSIA & HEZBOLLAH

Russia reportedly worked behind the scenes to protect the Hezbollah terror group in advance of a recent meeting on the renewal of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon's (UNIFIL) presence in the region. **Prior to last week's U.N. Security Council meeting on UNIFIL's mandate in southern Lebanon, the Russians purportedly lobbied for the removal of all references to Hezbollah** in the resolution's text, according to a classified Israeli diplomatic cable cited in a report by *Haaretz*.

Last week, Israel had received messages from France and the U.S. that the Security Council's resolution would require UNIFIL to aggressively keep Hezbollah's activities in check this year.

Since becoming actively involved in the Syrian Civil War in 2015, Russia has worked closely with Iran in support of the regime of Syria's President Bashar al-Assad.

Israel, meanwhile, has allegedly conducted several missile strikes targeting Iranian-sponsored weapons convoys heading to Hezbollah in Lebanon.



IDF MILITARY DRILL

The IDF on Tuesday launched a wide-scale military drill in northern Israel, the first exercise in 19 years to involve the entire Northern Corps. Military officials stressed the drill has been in the works for a while, saying it has nothing to do with recent developments in Syria and Lebanon, Israel's neighbors to the north.

The 11-day drill will follow a scenario by which the cabinet orders the IDF to decisively defeat Hezbollah, the Lebanon-based Shiite terrorist group.

Tens of thousands of military personnel, including thousands of reservists, will participate in the drill, which will include extensive ground, logistics, engineering and homefront forces and drone units, as well as the Israeli Air Force, Israeli Navy, Military Intelligence and the General Staff.



HEZBOLLAH TUNNELS

A future war between Israel and Hezbollah is "not a matter of 'if' but 'when,'" a Middle East expert and former Pentagon official told *The Algemeiner* on Wednesday.

In such a conflict, the IDF – like it did during the last Gaza war in 2014 – **will likely have to cope with the threat posed by underground tunnels,** Schenker noted.

"In the aftermath of the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war, the scale of Hezbollah's tunneling capability became apparent," he said. "During the conflagration, Israel destroyed several large tunnel systems, complete with ventilation, plumbing, and reinforced concrete ceilings, which stretched miles. **One of these tunnels was built within 100 yards of the border and Israeli and UNIFIL observation towers, essentially, right under Israel's nose.** So Hezbollah has a high degree of capability and will."



PMW



Murderer who slaughtered 3 Israelis honored in the PA

- PA and PLO officials visited the murderer's family
- Op-ed in official PA daily praised murderer: "Your name has been perpetuated in the Palestinian wedding songs" • Song performed at wedding glorified murderer: "He crossed the mountain top with a knife...he laid the Zionists down to sleep...[He] avenged the Al-Aqsa Mosque...He stood before the [Israeli] judge with his head held up high" • Family of murderer: "We are pleased with what he did" • Comments to Fatah Facebook post of murderer in court: "May Allah release him" "A crown on the heads of men"

Palestinian singer Muhammad Abu Taher Al-Barghouti arrested on charges of incitement by the Israeli army on Aug. 31, 2017 for this song honoring terrorist murderer Omar Al-Abd.

❖ http://palwatch.org/main.aspx?fi=475&fld_id=475&doc_id=22890



NIKKI HALEY

US Ambassador to the United Nations (UN) Nikki Haley called remarks by Hamas' leader in Gaza lauding its strong ties with Iran "a stunning admission" that illustrates Iranian violations of UN resolutions.

Iran is now "the largest backer financially and militarily" of Hamas, the Palestinian terror group's leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, told reporters last week in his first meeting with the media since assuming his new position.

Sinwar also emphasized that recently renewed relations with Iran are "fantastic" and have returned to the "former era" of close ties between Hamas and the Islamic Republic.

"Once again, Iran is showing its true colors," Haley asserted, adding that Iran must abide by UN resolutions or decide "whether it wants to be the leader of a jihadist terrorist movement." "It's long past time for the international community to hold Iran to the same standard that all countries who actually value peace and security are held to," she added.

The 55-year-old Sinwar, who spent two decades in Israeli prison after being convicted of masterminding the abduction and killing of two Israeli soldiers, has close ties with Hamas' terror wing and takes a hard line toward Israel.

Sinwar was among more than 1,000 Palestinians released by Israel in 2011 in exchange for an Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, whom Hamas kidnapped in 2006.



NEW SEC OF STATE?

“Where’s Rex? U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley steps in as America’s de facto diplomat-in-chief” by Robbie Gramer and Dan De Luce:

“Tillerson’s public reticence is also rekindling the simmering rumors of a “Rexit,” according to several current and former State Department officials. One U.S. government official told Foreign Policy that talk is circulating of Haley stepping in to replace Tillerson. “There are very strong rumors – started last week – that he is out and she will take over,” the official said.” [FP]

JUST IN - Nikki Haley, the now U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, turned down President Trump’s offer to be secretary of state, she said in an interview with CNN. “I’m very aware of when things are right and when they are not,” Haley said. “I just thought he could find someone better.”



NORTH KOREA

Iran will be watching how the world reacts to North Korea's latest nuclear test, a former Israeli defense minister said on Sunday.

Following the news that Pyongyang had detonated what it claimed to be an advanced hydrogen bomb that could be put on an intercontinental ballistic missile, Moshe Ya'alon – a retired IDF lieutenant general who now heads the Manhigut Aheret NGO – tweeted, **"The response of the international system, led by the US, to the North Korean regime's provocations will be reflected in the Iranian regime's behavior on the nuclear issue in the near future."**

"Although the nuclear test is not our concern, the tension should worry us," Ya'alon continued.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I do not intend to cease paying salaries to the families of prisoners and martyrs, even if it means I lose my position. I will continue paying their salaries until my dying day." - Mahmoud Abbas, The PA corrupt Chairman

(And the Western international anti-Semites are happy to subsidize it! The US has the policy of not negotiating with terrorists. Therefore, why have all US presidents been pushing and blackmailing Israel into negotiating with the biggest and longest lasting terrorist entity, which uses the fake claim of the fake nation, Palestinians, as an excuse to destroy the only Jewish nation?) - Steven Shamrak



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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