

KFIR

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of October 6, 2017



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Holy Ground Explorations



holygroundexplorations.com

SUKKOT

- ❖ The Jewish Feast of Sukkot offers a time for one to 'count our blessings'. Spending time in a sukkah reminds us of how God has protected and sheltered us and devalues all the "stuff" in our lives that tend to crowd Him out.
- ❖ It's been said that the twenty-first century will be seen by historians as the Age of Insecurity. The Jewish people, are the world's experts in insecurity, having lived with it for millennia. And the supreme response to insecurity is Sukkot, when we leave behind the safety of our houses and sit in sukkot, in huts exposed to the elements. To be able to do so and still say, this is our festival of joy, is the supreme achievement of faith, the ultimate antidote to fear.
- ❖ Faith is the ability to rejoice in the midst of instability and change, traveling through the wilderness of time toward an unknown destination. Faith is not fear. Faith is not hate. Faith is not violence. These are vital truths, never more needed than now.



THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

The Islamic State (ISIS) has claimed responsibility for the deadliest shooting in American history, saying that Stephen Paddock, who was eliminated after he allegedly shot and killed 58 people and wounded over 515 in Las Vegas early on Monday, converted to Islam in recent months. According to the FBI, Paddock had no connection to an international terrorist group.

Israel's PM says any unity PA government must recognize Israel, see Hamas disarmed, sever ties with Iran; PA president broadly echoes the sentiments



FRIEDMAN COMMENTS

US Ambassador - Settlements Are Part of Israel.

David M. Friedman had strong words of support for Israel. "I think the settlements are part of Israel," he said. "I think that was always the expectation when UN Resolution 242 was adopted in 1967. "The idea was that Israel would be entitled to secure borders," he said. "The existing borders, the '1967 borders' were viewed by everybody as not secure, so Israel would retain a meaningful portion of the West Bank and it would return that which it didn't need for peace and security..." (*Judea and Samaria is Jewish land! But it is good step in the right direction. Anti-Semites in State Dept distance themselves from his comments.*)



MOSSAD - IRAN

The head of the Mossad intelligence service warned on Monday that Iran, through its proxies, is operating closer “than ever before” to Israel’s borders with Lebanon and Syria, though he also said Israel was operating deep in enemy territory.

Spy chief Yossi Cohen said that in addition to arming the terrorist groups Hezbollah and Hamas, the Islamic Republic was working to develop its own nuclear capabilities with the goal of weaponizing them.

Cohen made his remarks at a ceremony in which six teams from the espionage service received a special commendation from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Due to the sensitivity of the operations, the details of the teams’ activities were kept secret.



NEW PA LEADERS?

Enemy Population Loves Terrorists as Leaders. According to the latest poll 67% of the public want Abbas to resign. Demand for Abbas' resignation stands at 60% in the PA and 80% in the Gaza Strip. If Abbas does not nominate himself in a new election, 35% prefer to see **Marwan Barghouti** replacing him, while 21% prefer **Ismail Haniyeh**.



NEW HAMAS LEADERS

Saleh al-Aroui, expelled from Qatar earlier this year, will serve under Ismail Haniyeh in the terror group's political bureau

Hamas on Thursday announced that top commander Saleh al-Aroui, who in recent years served as the terror group's head of West Bank operations, will be appointed as the organization's deputy political leader.

Aroui will thus serve under Ismail Haniyeh, who himself replaced Khaled Mashaal as the group's political bureau chief in May. He is believed to have since settled in Lebanon, and was publicly spotted in Beirut in August.

Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman has said Aroui continues to plan terror attacks against Israel and has been attempting "to boost the relationship between Hamas and Hezbollah" with Iranian support.

Israeli intelligence officials believe that Aroui helped plan the June 2014 kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teens – Gil-ad Shaar, Eyal Yifrach and Naftali Fraenkel – as well as numerous other attacks.



BIBI - PA / HAMAS

Netanyahu on the Palestinian Authority-Hamas reconciliation talks,

at the start of a meeting of the [Tanach Study Circle](#) at the Prime Minister's

Residence yesterday: "Whoever talks about peace needs to say, first of all, that it is necessary to recognize the State of Israel, the state of the Jewish People..."

We are not interested in a bogus reconciliation in which the Palestinian factions reconcile with each other at the expense of our existence. Therefore, we expect to see three things: One - recognition of the State of Israel; two - dismantling the military arm of Hamas; and three - severing the link with Iran, which calls for our destruction."



TRUMP COMMENTS

"Trump to UN Chief: Netanyahu Proving More Difficult Than Abbas in Peace Efforts" by Barak Ravid

Ravid: "In a meeting last month with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, U.S. President Donald Trump termed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the harder side to convince in his efforts to broker an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal..."

"Trump said both leaders are problematic," said one Western diplomat who was briefed on the meeting. "But the general context was that from the two of them, Netanyahu is the bigger problem."



ABBAS' DOUBLE TALK

Palestinian Authority head Mahmoud Abbas' recent responses to terror attacks on Israelis continue a familiar pattern of "condemnations" in English, followed, sometimes on the same day, by praise for terrorists in Arabic statements to the press and constituents.

Most recently, Mahmoud Abbas followed up a condemnation with an inciting speech declaring, "Every drop of blood that has been spilled in Jerusalem is holy blood as long as it was for Allah. Every martyr will reach Paradise."

Unfortunately, the media chooses to focus only on the English language "condemnations," without covering the inflammatory and unrepentant rhetoric Palestinian leaders use when issuing statements in Arabic.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

Corrie Ten Boom

AZ QUOTES



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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