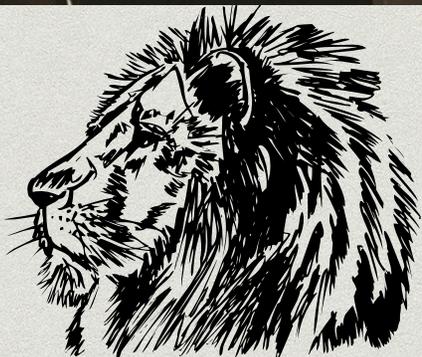


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# MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

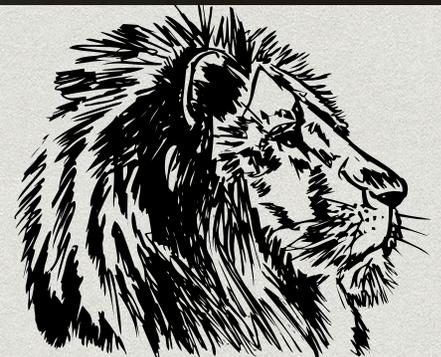
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17, 2017

**DAN STOLEBARGER**



# KFIR

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# HEADLINES

- \* The Iranian threat has pushed Saudi Arabia to seek secret cooperation with the only power in the region with the capability and willpower to stop Iran's aggression: Israel.
- \* The IDF said it deployed Iron Dome missile defense batteries throughout central Israel on Monday amid the Gaza-based Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorist group's threat that it will avenge Israel's recent destruction of a cross-border attack tunnel.
- \* Over half of the total religion-linked hate crimes in the US in 2016 were anti-Semitic new FBI reported shows.
- \* Warsaw Ghetto Jews' secret archive goes on display. Thousands of documents including newspapers, ration coupons, postcards, and medical prescriptions were stashed away in milk jugs.



# IRAN BASE IN SYRIA

Iran's military is establishing a permanent base inside Syria, just outside Damascus, *BBC* reported on Friday.

Citing a "Western intelligence source," the report says that the Iranian military has taken over a compound at a site used by the Syrian army outside El-Kiswah, south of the Syrian capital and just a short 50 km from the border with Israel.

Satellite images of the purported site, commissioned by the *BBC*, appear to show construction activity at the site between January and October this year. The images show a series of two dozen large and low-rise buildings, likely for housing soldiers and vehicles.

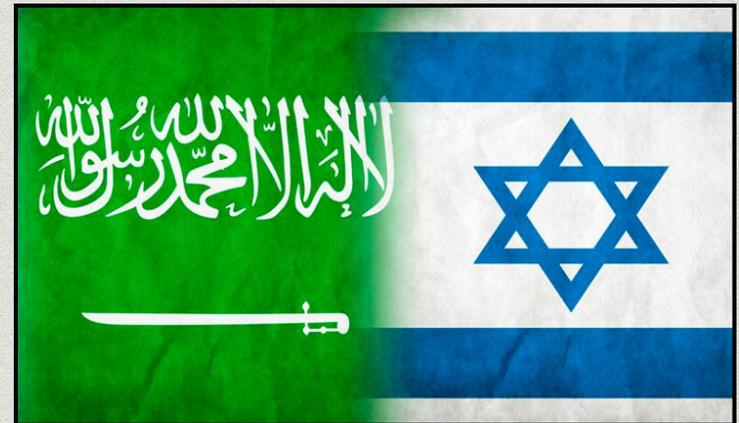


# IRAN & ISRAEL

In an unprecedented interview to a Saudi news outlet, IDF Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot said Thursday that the Jewish state is prepared to share intelligence with the Gulf kingdom in their joint efforts to curb Iranian influence in the region.

Israel and Saudi Arabia do not have official diplomatic relations.

Speaking with the London-based, Saudi-owned news site Elaph, Eisenkot, in his first-ever interview with Arabic media, laid out what he thinks are Iran's ambitions in the Middle East, and made clear that Israel isn't interested in a war now with the Iranian-backed Lebanese terror group Hezbollah, despite Iranian attempts to bring about an escalation.



# THE KURDS?

Iran is on a mission. The Islamic Republic is determined to establish a "Shi'ite crescent" and Kurdistan and Israel can serve as two critical roadblocks in what would be a Shi'ite bridge crossing the Middle East to Africa, threatening the security of Israel and her allies.

If the West has any moral integrity and, for that matter, sense of self-preservation, it will throw its full weight behind the Iraqi Kurds and throw what one might call the "Soleimani imperative" back at Tehran: surrender or face the wrath of the United States of America.

"The Kurds have no friends but the mountains," goes a traditional Kurdish saying. No friends but the mountains and Israel would be more accurate.



# SAUDIS & ABBAS

"During his surprise summons to Riyadh last week, Palestinian Authority chief was also ordered to avoid Iran, cut ties with Hezbollah, according to Channel 10 TV.

Saudi Arabia last week ordered Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to either accept an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal being put together by the Trump administration, or resign, according to an Israeli report Sunday.

The Trump administration has begun drafting an Israeli-Palestinian peace proposal based on a two-state solution, officials and analysts quoted by The New York Times said on Saturday.



# TRUMP'S PEACE PLAN ON HOLD

"Al-Monitor has learned that Trump and his staff's original plan was to launch the initiative in January 2018, one year after Trump assumed the presidency. It was supposed to take place in an impressive ceremony in Washington with the participation of Israel (Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu) and the Palestinians (President Mahmoud Abbas), of course, as well as high-level representatives from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Jordan... The intention is to delay the launch until March 2018... The diplomatic sources involved in the process believe the American initiative will not see the light of day unless Netanyahu agrees to it. Another important factor is that Trump has not even approved it yet. It will be brought to him for approval only when it is finished." [[Al-Monitor](#)]



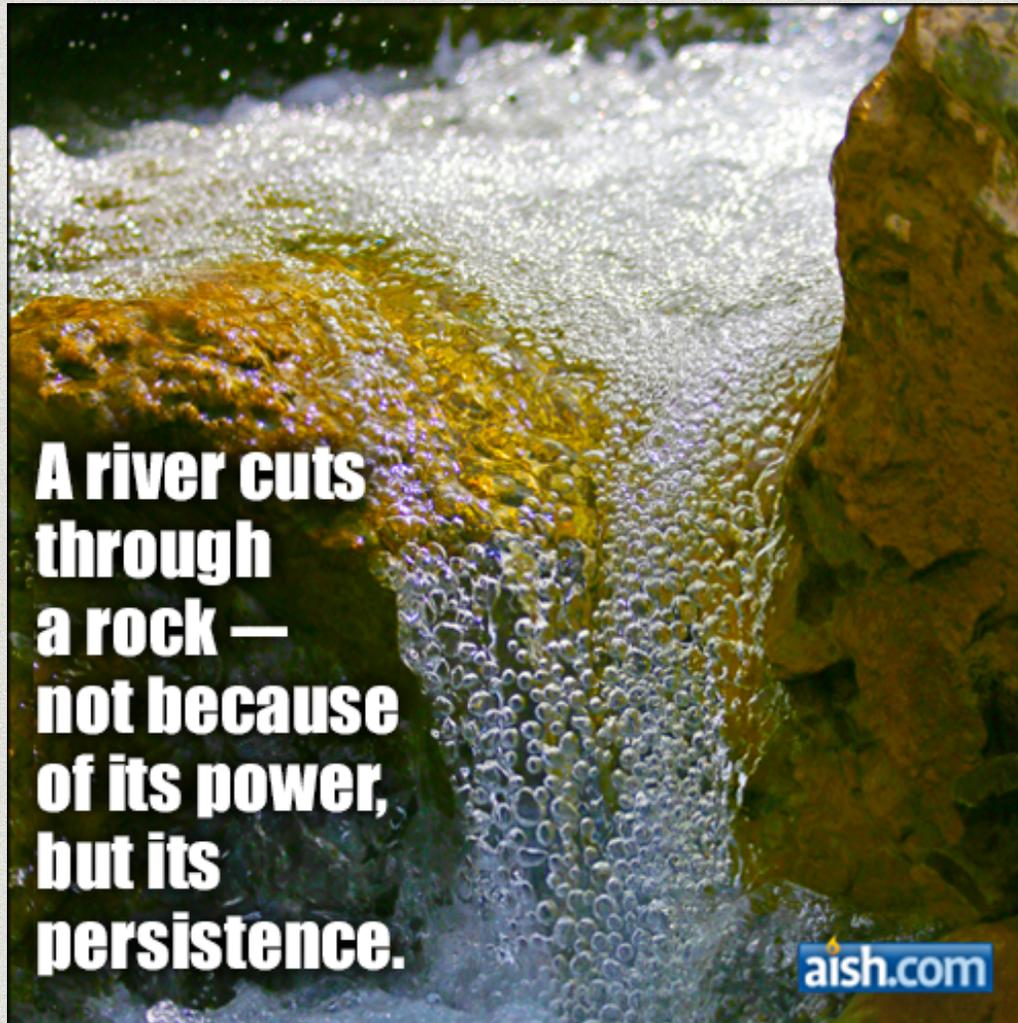
# TAYLOR FORCE ACT



\* The Taylor Force Act, which would sharply reduce US aid to the PA if it continues paying stipends to Palestinian terrorists and their families, made it through a key legislative hurdle when the House Foreign Affairs committee passed the bill without any opposition. The bill is named after Taylor Force, an American student and military veteran who was stabbed to death by a Palestinian in 2016. [Reuters](#) notes: Force's attacker was killed by Israeli police, but his **killer's family receives such a monthly payment**. The bill still needs to be approved by the full House of Representatives and Senate before it can go to the White House for President Trump's signature. The same committee also [passed a bill](#) to sanction the financial backers of Hamas, sending the measure to the full House.



# THIS WEEK'S QUOTE

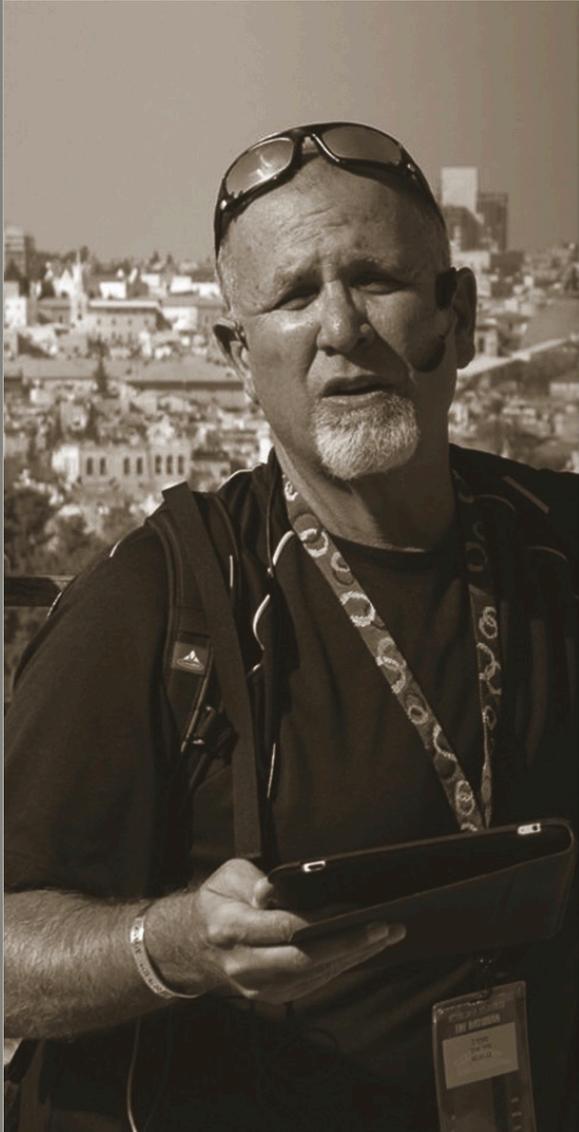


**A river cuts  
through  
a rock —  
not because  
of its power,  
but its  
persistence.**

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# HGE UPCOMING TOURS



**EXPERIENCE ISRAEL**  
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