

HOLY GROUND EXPLORATIONS

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE - WEEK OF DEC 8, 2017



KAFIR

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THE WALLS OF THE OLD CITY



THE SPEECH

After more than two decades of waivers, we are no closer to a lasting peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. It would be folly to assume that repeating the exact same formula would now produce a different or better result.

Therefore, I have determined that it is time to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

While previous presidents have made this a major campaign promise, they failed to deliver. Today, I am delivering.

But today, we finally acknowledge the obvious: that Jerusalem is Israel's capital. This is nothing more, or less, than a recognition of reality. It is also the right thing to do. It's something that has to be done.

That is why, consistent with the Jerusalem Embassy Act, I am also directing the State Department to begin preparation to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.



TWO MINUTES?

Nir Barkat, Jerusalem mayor tells Israel Radio that U.S. President Donald Trump could move embassy by changing sign on the existing consulate and giving Ambassador David Friedman an office

Moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to the holy city could take "two minutes," Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat said Tuesday.

Senior U.S. officials have said U.S. President Donald Trump is likely on Wednesday to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital while delaying the relocation of the embassy from Tel Aviv for another six months, though he is expected to order his aides to begin planning such a move immediately.



HEADLINES

In the early hours of Saturday morning, Israel reportedly attacked a military base 14 kilometers (8.7 miles) south of Damascus and 50 kilometers (31 miles) from Israel's border. According to some reports, the base in question was intended for use by Iranian forces.

A new survey has found that millennial evangelical Christians support Israel less than older generations, a troubling new trend for one of Israel's strongest and most vocal support groups in the U.S. "For the most part, younger evangelicals are indifferent about Israel," said the executive director of LifeWay Research, which conducted the survey with Chosen People Ministries & Joel Rosenberg.

The Middle East is a tinderbox that could literally erupt at any moment. Most Americans have absolutely no idea how close we are to a major regional war, and let us pray that one does not happen any time soon.



RED LINE FOR MUSLIMS?

The status of Jerusalem is a “red line” for Muslims and changing it could prompt Turkey to cut its ties with Israel, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned Tuesday, as US President Donald Trump reportedly geared up to recognize the city as the Jewish state’s capital.

According to Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, the ‘whole world’ opposes President Trump’s move to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and move the US Embassy.

Palestinian Authority: DAY OF RAGE in Palestinian schools Wednesday to protest TRUMP's intention to recognize #JERUSALEM as Israel's capital.



HAMAS & PA THREATS



Hamas and the Palestinian Authority (PA) both made threats ahead of the Trump administration's possible recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital this week. The Palestinian threats came after American officials were quoted as stating that President Donald Trump will make an announcement on Dec. 6 regarding U.S. recognition of Jerusalem.

Hamas on Saturday called to "renew the Jerusalem intifada" in order to prevent the change in U.S. policy. "We call on the Palestinian people to stand as an impenetrable floodgate and a tall wall against this decision and renew the Jerusalem intifada," the terror group stated.

PA President Mahmoud Abbas's adviser, Mahmoud Habash, said Saturday that U.S. recognition of the Israeli capital would cause the "complete destruction of the peace process," adding that "the world will pay a price." Other high-ranking PA officials issued similar statements.



TAYLOR FORCE ACT

Tuesday's House vote follows the Taylor Force Act's approval by the House Foreign Affairs Committee on November 15.

If passed, the PA faces the loss of \$300 million in annual US aid until it ends the payments.

PA President Abbas defended the "martyrdom payments" in June as a "social responsibility to look after innocent people affected by the incarceration or killing of their loved ones."

Taylor Force, a native of [Lubbock, Texas](#) who graduated from [West Point](#) in 2009 and served tours of duty in both [Afghanistan](#) and [Iraq](#), was knifed to death on the Tel Aviv / Jaffa boardwalk on March 8, 2016 and payments have been awarded to the family of the terrorist.



JUST IN: The House of Rep just passed the Taylor Force Act. The bill now moves to the Senate, which is expected to vote on it this month.



IDF STRIKES IN SYRIA

The IDF carried out an airstrike near Damascus Monday night - for the second time in two days.

Israeli aircraft struck the outskirts of Damascus Monday night, according to foreign media reports.

The strike reportedly targeted a scientific research center in the village of Jamraya, three miles northwest of the capital.

Israel fired several air-to-surface missiles at a military post near the southern Damascus suburb of Kiswah early Saturday. Several Iranians were killed in that attack.

Israel continues to warn against the involvement of its arch enemy Iran - including its terror proxy, Hezbollah - in Syria.



NEW PALESTINIAN TEXTBOOKS



Palestinian Authority textbooks issued for the new academic year are “significantly more radical” than their predecessors, routinely erasing Israel and glorifying “martyrdom.” In its [review](#) of the grades 1-11 curriculum – which underwent a full reform starting last year – the Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education found that Palestinian textbooks “groom young Palestinians to sacrifice themselves to martyrdom,” promote the idea of a mass “return” to Israel, and “feature a radical Islamist, and occasionally, a Salafi worldview.” Inflammatory language is found in textbooks across the curriculum, regardless of age or subject matter, with Israel frequently described as the “Zionist Occupation” and Israeli land often labeled Palestinian.



AUSCHWITZ LETTER

After years of restoration work, specialists recently finished deciphering a letter left behind by an Auschwitz inmate. Marcel Nadjari, wrote a harrowing, 13-page testament of his experiences in the camp in 1944 on spare notepaper. He hid it that November next to a crematorium in the death camp inside of a thermos wrapped in a leather pouch.

Nadjari was one of the Sonderkommandos at the camp, a group of some 2,000 prisoners who helped the Nazis transfer Jews from the cattle cars to the gas chambers. He wrote that "many times I thought of simply continuing on with the others into the chamber, to death. What stopped me from doing that, however, was the strong wish to avenge the deaths of my mother and father, and my little, beloved sister."

Nadjari's written testimony is firsthand proof of the horrors and Nazi crimes experienced in the death camp.



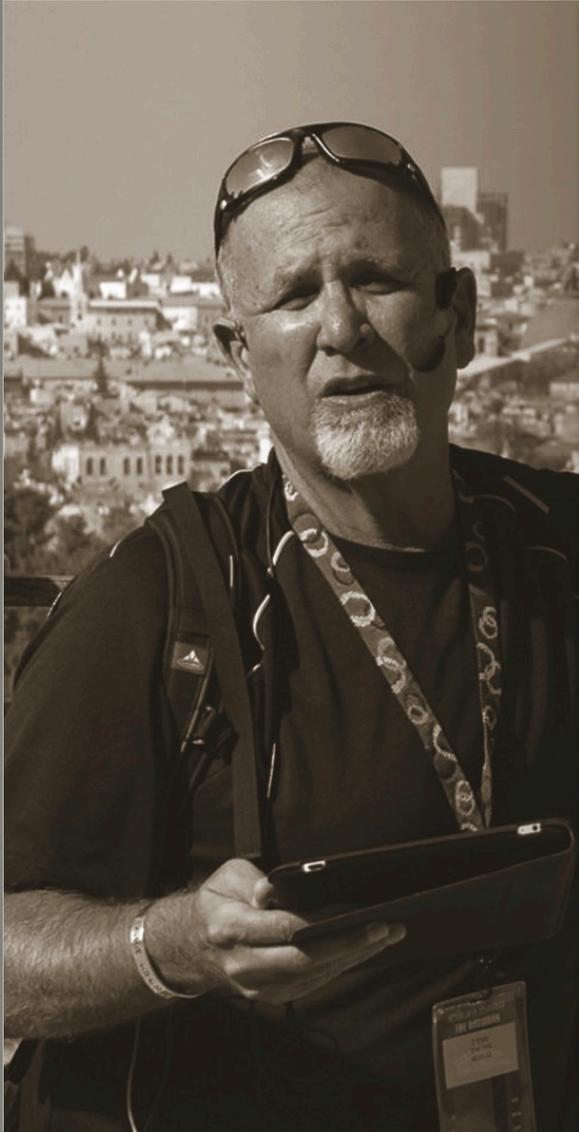
THIS WEEK'S QUOTES

"We Jews have a secret weapon in our struggle with the Arabs; we have no place to go." - Golda Meir, former Prime minister of Israel.

Statements by the King of Jordan, the Palestinian leadership, and Arab leaders that recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital or locating the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem will endanger the peace process and bring a wave of violence, are nothing but empty threats and unfortunate attempts to threaten a sovereign government and incite. Surrendering to such threats of violence and terrorism would be a dangerous precedent and a sign of weakness.



HGE UPCOMING TOURS



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