

HOLY GROUND EXPLORATIONS

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE - WEEK OF DEC 29, 2017



KAFIR

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HEADLINES

The head of Romania's governing Social Democratic Party, Liviu Nicolae Dragnea, has called for Romania to transfer its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. We are hearing about ten others who will be doing the same.

The Palestinians do not want peace. They want victory, a victory that will lead to the elimination of Israel and the expulsion of the Jews.

U.S. negotiates 'historic' \$285 million cut to UN budget. Move follows U.S. envoy to U.N. Nikki Haley's warning General Assembly vote condemning U.S. recognition of Jerusalem would "be remembered." Haley says U.S. pleased with reduction to "bloated" budget, promises more to come.

Ambassador David Friedman has reportedly called for the US State Department to change its terminology and drop the word 'occupied' when referring to the 'West Bank.'



NIKKI - THE MACCABEE



“The United States will remember this day in which it was singled out for attack in the General Assembly for the very act of exercising our right as a sovereign nation. We will remember it when we are called upon to once again make the world’s largest contribution to the United Nations. And we will remember it when so many countries come calling on us, as they so often do, to pay even more and to use our influence for their benefit. America will put our embassy in Jerusalem. That is what the American people want us to do, and it is the right thing to do. No vote in the United Nations will make any difference on that.’ Nikki Haley



GUATEMALA

Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales drew praise from Israeli officials on Monday after announcing that he had decided to relocate the Central American country's embassy to Jerusalem.

In a short post on his official Facebook account on Sunday, Morales said he had decided to move the embassy from Tel Aviv after talking with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

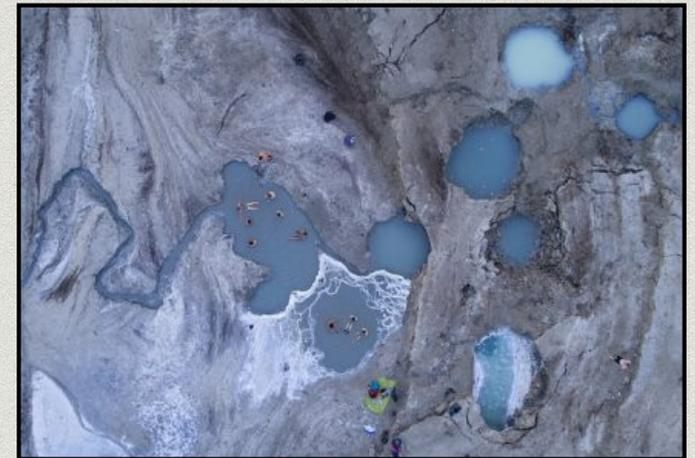
Morales' move is in step with the U.S. administration, which recently officially recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and declared its intention to relocate its own embassy there.



FIVE YEAR DROUGHT

After five years of drought the Sea of Galilee stands several feet below the point at which ecologists predict damage to water quality and the ecosystem. Water flow of Jordan River is down to some 25% of what it used to be and the Dead Sea has shrunk by approximately 60%.

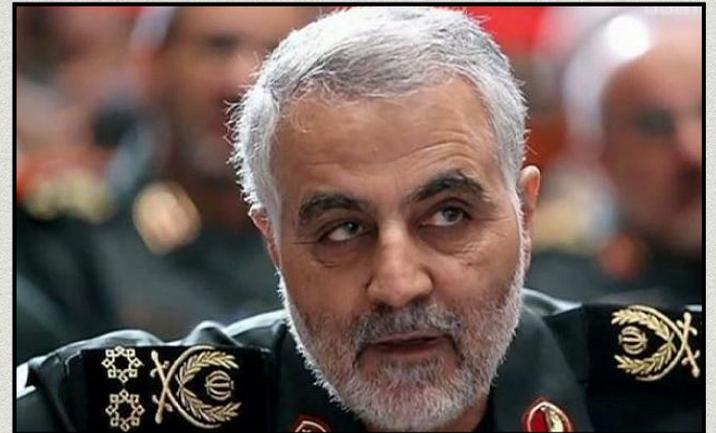
The biblical bodies of waters - pilgrimage sites for baptisms and beach parties alike - are crucial to the survival and stability of Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians. But more and more of the river the ancient Israelites crossed to enter the Holy Land is drying up - the result of climate change, growing populations and the increasing use of its water for agriculture.



IRAN & HAMAS

Hamas's leader in the Gaza Strip, Yahya Sinwar, said that a senior Iranian military commander pledged all of the Islamic Republic's military resources to help the Gaza-based terror group fight Israel over Jerusalem.

"All our of capabilities and potential are at your disposal in the battle for the defense of Jerusalem," Sinwar said Qassem Soleimani, the commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' elite Quds Force, told him over the phone.



IRAN & SYRIA



The Syrian Army and the Iran-backed Lebanese terror group Hezbollah moved deeper into a strategic area bordering Israel and Lebanon this week, in the latest aggressive Iranian advancement in the region. The Syrian forces and Lebanese terror group moved near the Sunni rebel-controlled area of Beit Jin in southern Syria with support from heavy artillery and aerial bombing. Beit Jin is the last remaining rebel-controlled enclave southwest of Damascus. "The Iranian-backed militias are trying to consolidate their sphere of influence all the way from southwest of Damascus to the Israeli border," said Suhaib al Ruhail, a member of a Sunni rebel group in the area, Reuters reported.



FATAH TRAINING

Fatah posted on its Twitter account the above photo of a young boy hurling rocks with a slingshot together with an explanation to Palestinians how best to throw rocks:

- "In order to hit the target, there are three conditions:
1. Stand stably and balance your legs, arms, and body well
 2. Focus your gaze on the center of the target, and do not look at anything else.
 3. Keep the desired balance between your body and your weapon; you are the one that controls the weapon, and not the other way around

If you did not understand this, read it again, and if you still have not understood, here is an example picture for you"[Official Fatah Twitter account, Dec. 16, 2017]



٣. احفظ التوازن المطلوب بين جسمك وسلاحك، انت من يسيطر على السلاح لا العكس
انا لم تنهم الدرس اجد فرائده اخرى، وانا لم يتيسر لك الفهم اليك صورة تفصيلية



1 4 9



Rock throwing at cars has caused hundreds of injuries and many deaths



THE TRUMP TRAIN

A new train station that will be built next to the *Kotel*, the Western Wall, will be named after US President Donald Trump, Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz stated this week.

“The Western Wall is the holiest place for the Jewish people, and I decided to call the train station that leads to it after President Trump following his historic and brave decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel,” Katz stated.



ARABS FRUSTRATED

Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia are displeased with the way the Palestinian Authority has reacted to U.S. President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and his decision to relocate the U.S. Embassy to the city, Israel Hayom has learned.

Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit announced over the weekend that he would head a new committee, comprising the foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Palestinian Authority, to devise a new policy on Jerusalem.

"The Palestinians' efforts to sway public opinion have been a complete failure, and as a result, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has created a rift between us [the Arab world] and Trump. We are once again left with the demagogic, hollow and inflammatory rhetoric of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan."



ARAB APARTHEID

Palestinians say that what they are facing in Iraq is "ethnic cleansing." The new Iraqi law deprives Palestinians living in Iraq of their right to free education, healthcare and to travel documents, and denies them work in state institutions.

No one will pay any attention to the misery of the Palestinians in any Arab country. Major media outlets around the world will barely cover the news of the controversial Iraqi law or the displacement of thousands of Palestinian families in Iraq. Journalists are too busy chasing a handful of Palestinian stone throwers near Ramallah. A Palestinian girl who punched an Israeli soldier in the face draws more media interest than Arab apartheid against the Palestinians.

The hypocrisy of the Arab countries is in full swing. While they pretend to show solidarity with their Palestinian brothers, Arab governments work tirelessly to ethnically cleanse them. Palestinian leaders, meanwhile care nothing about the plight of their own people in Arab countries. They are much too busy inciting Palestinians against Israel and Trump to pay such a paltry issue any mind at all.



END OF THE YEAR QUOTES

As the late **Abba Eban**, Israel's legendary Ambassador to the United Nations once said, "If Algeria introduced a resolution declaring that the earth was flat and that Israel had flattened it, it would pass by a vote of 164 to 13 with 26 abstentions."

"I don't speak because I have the power to speak; I speak because I don't have the power to remain silent" - **Rabbi A.Y. Kook**

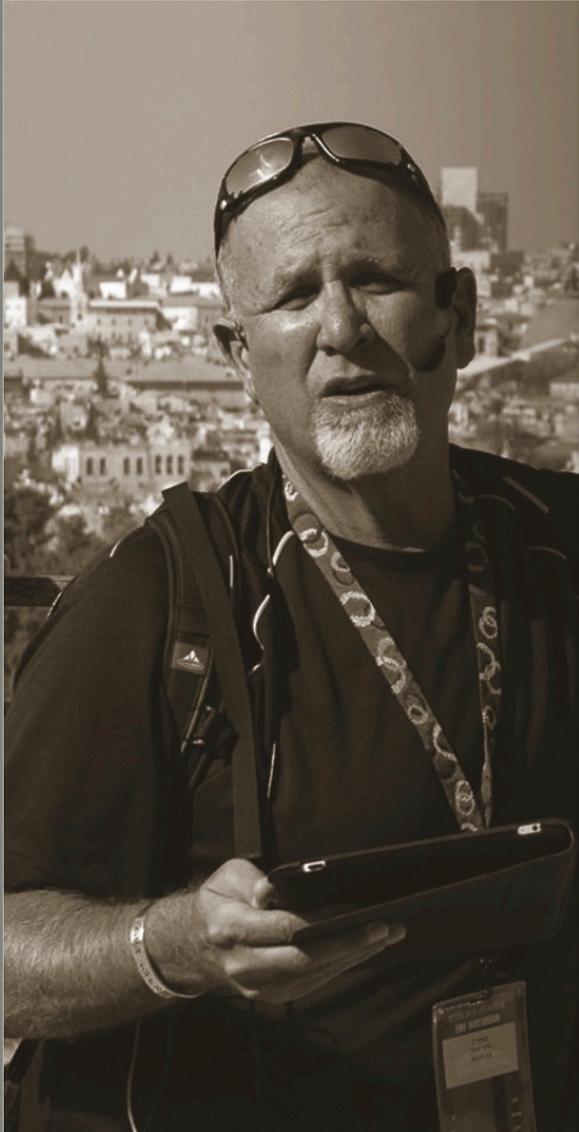
"There are two things that are infinite, the universe and man's stupidity..... And I am not sure about the universe." - **Albert Einstein**

"A righteous man falls down seven times and gets up." - **King Solomon**,
Proverbs, 24:16.

Life is all about the ability to get up from challenge. Greatness is defined as getting up one more time than what you've fallen down. The Torah defines someone who's righteous not as someone who had succeeded, but someone who has persevered. It creates a paradigm of what righteousness is - trying to do what's right, getting up from failure, and keep moving forward.



HGE UPCOMING TOURS



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EXPERIENCE ISRAEL

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