

HGE - MIDDLE EAST UPDATE - WEEK OF JANUARY 12, 2018

KFFR



YOUNG LIONS CLUB

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK

HEADLINES

The top Palestinian negotiator reiterated that the peace process will not be restarted until Washington rescinds its recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Terror Vicims Bill - The families of terror victims on Sunday urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to deduct the salaries that the PA pays terrorists and their families from PA tax funds collected by Israel.

ISIS is making it clear that it now has its eyes on the Gaza Strip. By calling on the Palestinians to rebel against Hamas, ISIS is hoping to facilitate its mission of infiltrating Gaza. These actions should be of great concern and worry not only for the Palestinians, but for Israel and Egypt as well.



TRUMP'S PEACE PLAN

The basic idea includes an extensive territorial exchange, in which Egypt would cede a piece of the Sinai Peninsula to the Gaza Strip. With this, Gaza's territory would extend southward along the seashore, making it three or four times larger than it currently is. This would make it possible to relieve some of the pressure in Gaza, but it would also shift the balance of power between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. According to this plan, the center of power in the Palestinian state would be in Gaza, expanded toward the north of Sinai, rather than the West Bank.

In exchange for the expanded territories that they would receive in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinians would give up territories in the West Bank, allowing Israel to annex the settlement blocs along with generous amount of land around them, thereby maintaining some degree of territorial integrity between various blocs. At the same time, Israel would give Egypt a narrow strip of territory along the lengthy southern border between the two countries. There is also the possibility that Saudi Arabia and Jordan would also participate in these territorial exchanges, with various ideas proposed.

One senior Palestinian official told Al-Monitor on condition of anonymity. "Abbas would rather die with nothing than live with such a plan."



RAZED SHEVACH



Hundreds of mourners on Wednesday attended the funeral of Raziel Shevach, a resident of the Samaria outpost of Havat Gilad who was murdered in a shooting attack near his home Tuesday. Friends, rabbis and cabinet ministers also eulogized the beloved father of six. "We are at war and you are a victim of war," said Samaria Regional Council Chief Rabbi Elyakim Levanon. "This is a war between the sons of darkness and the sons of light. To anyone looking for a sign of light, you, Raziel, are the sign. Yossi Dagan, head of the Samaria Regional Council, said in his eulogy that "despicable, sickening murderers, the scourge of the human race, stole a giant soul from us. Rabbi Raziel did not die of cancer, he didn't succumb to influenza. He was murdered because he was a Jew living in the land of Israel



TERROR IN SAMARIA



Fatah glorifies the drive-by murder yesterday of Rabbi Razi'el Shevach, a father of six children, who was murdered in a drive-by shooting in Samaria. He was 35. Only a few hours after Fatah glorified the murder in a post on Facebook, which presented the attack as a successful "operation" measured in figures: Posted text: "The Nablus operation in numbers: The full duration of the operation: 30 seconds; The distance between the cars: 20 meters; The number of bullets that were fired: 22; The one who carried out the operation was skilled and experienced, and escaped the site. The result: a killed settler"



ISRAELI AMBASSADOR



The US ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, launched a scathing attack on the Palestinians and their leadership on Wednesday, blaming them squarely for the lack of peace with Israel.

"An Israeli father of six was killed last night in cold blood by Palestinian terrorists. Hamas praises the killers and PA laws will provide them financial rewards," Friedman said in a statement posted to Twitter in response to the killing of [Rabbi Raziel Shevach](#) in a drive-by shooting attack Tuesday night. "Look no further to why there is no peace.



PA CAPITAL



“How is Jerusalem different from Ramallah?” asks an Egyptian intelligence officer, saying the Palestinians should content themselves with the city that currently serves as their de facto administrative capital.

Capt. Ashraf al-Kholi, an Egyptian intelligence officer, has been urging influential talk show hosts to accept US President Donald Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and to convince their viewers as well, the New York Times reported Saturday.



EAST JERUSALEM



The Arab League will seek international recognition of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital in response to Washington's recognition of the Holy City as Israel's capital, Jordan said on Saturday. Israel claims all of Jerusalem as its united capital, while the Palestinians see East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state.



When announcing his decision Trump stressed the city's final boundaries should be determined in negotiations between the sides and that access to religious sites shouldn't be impeded.



BRITS AND THE PA



Britain's chief diplomat Boris Johnson told the Palestinian Authority's Riyad al-Malki on Monday that Jerusalem will ultimately be shared by Israel and a future Palestinian state, according to a statement from the British foreign office .

"I reiterated the UK's commitment to supporting the Palestinian people and the two-state solution, the urgent need for renewed peace negotiations, and the UK's clear and longstanding position on the status of Jerusalem," Johnson stated.



IDF STATS



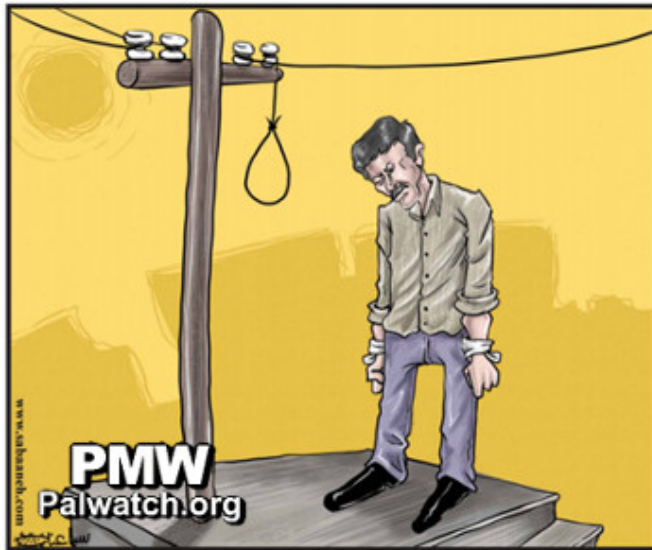
IDF issues report chronicling operational incidents of 2017: 20 Israelis killed in attacks; IDF hits 59 Gaza targets. 3,617 Palestinians arrested, over \$3 million in terror funds seized. 927 Syrians treated in Israeli hospitals alongside life saving humanitarian aid.



Some 35 rockets and mortar shells were fired at Israel during 2017, the largest number of projectiles fired at the country since the conclusion of Operation Protective Edge, waged in the Gaza Strip in 2014, the military said.



HUTZPAH



The PA asks Israel to increase power supply to Gaza after rocket attacks. The request came on a day in which Gaza terrorists launched three separate mortar and rocket attacks on Jewish communities in southern Israel – the fourth attack this week. It also comes one day after the Palestinian Authority claimed the 'Unified Jerusalem' law passed this week by the Knesset was a "declaration of war"

(The PA wants to reward Hamas for attacking Israel, using the enemy's electricity - isn't that a bit odd? Israel must wage war against its enemies seriously!)



UNREST IN IRAN



Iran is convulsing again. The largest anti-government protests since 2009 began last month in the city of Mashhad and spread throughout the country, with demonstrators chanting "death to the dictator," "death to Hezbollah," and "death to the Islamic Republic." Iranian security forces deployed killing more than twenty people and imprisoning hundreds of others. Revolutionary Guard Corps commander Mohammad Ali Jafari now declares that the "forces of sedition" have been defeated.

We'll see about that. Iran's citizens aren't suddenly happy with the status quo. These demonstrations are different than those of the recent past. They didn't start in the relatively liberal and cosmopolitan northern part of Tehran, where hatred for the repressive government perpetually simmers, but instead in what was recently considered a clerical stronghold.



IAF STRIKES SYRIA



Syrian media on Tuesday alleged that Israel mounted three strikes on targets near Damascus overnight. The sites held weapon caches likely earmarked for Hezbollah. The reports were not corroborated by any Israeli source.

Israel has insisted it will not ignore Iranian efforts to establish permanent military bases in Syria and its diplomats have delivered messages to that effect to Western and regional leaders.



YOUNG EVANGELICALS



A new study has some troubling news for Israel and its supporters, who have come to rely on the political and financial support of the 25 percent of Americans who identify as evangelical Christians.

“Older American evangelicals love Israel – but many younger evangelicals simply don’t care,” reads the summary of the study released last month by the Nashville-based evangelical research firm LifeWay Research.

In 2012, there was a noted decline in support for Israel among younger Christians. That change was in part because millennial evangelicals are less likely to take the Bible literally. Evangelical support for Israel is often driven by theology. “Once you’re no longer bound to Israel through a literal interpretation of the Bible, that means you’re in play – you could be pro-Israel, you could be anti-Israel.



QUOTES



- "Speaking YOUR truth is the most powerful tool we all have!" Oprah Winfrey



- "There is no such thing as 'your truth' there is THE TRUTH and your opinion". Ben Shapiro



UPCOMING TOURS

ANTHEM ISRAEL - FEB
TALMIDIM WORK TRIP - FEB
ENGAGING ISRAEL - FEB
EXPERIENCING ISRAEL - APRIL
OFF THE BEATEN PATH - FALL 2018

