

HGE - MIDDLE EAST UPDATE - WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23, 2018

KFIR



YOUNG LIONS CLUB

WHAT'S INSIDE

DAN IN ISRAEL
HEADLINES

TAYLOR FORCE ACT
HAMAS & FATAH
RUSSIA AND ISRAEL
ROCK THROWERS
HEZBOLLAH ROCKETS
NIKKI HALEY
QUOTES
UPCOMING TOURS

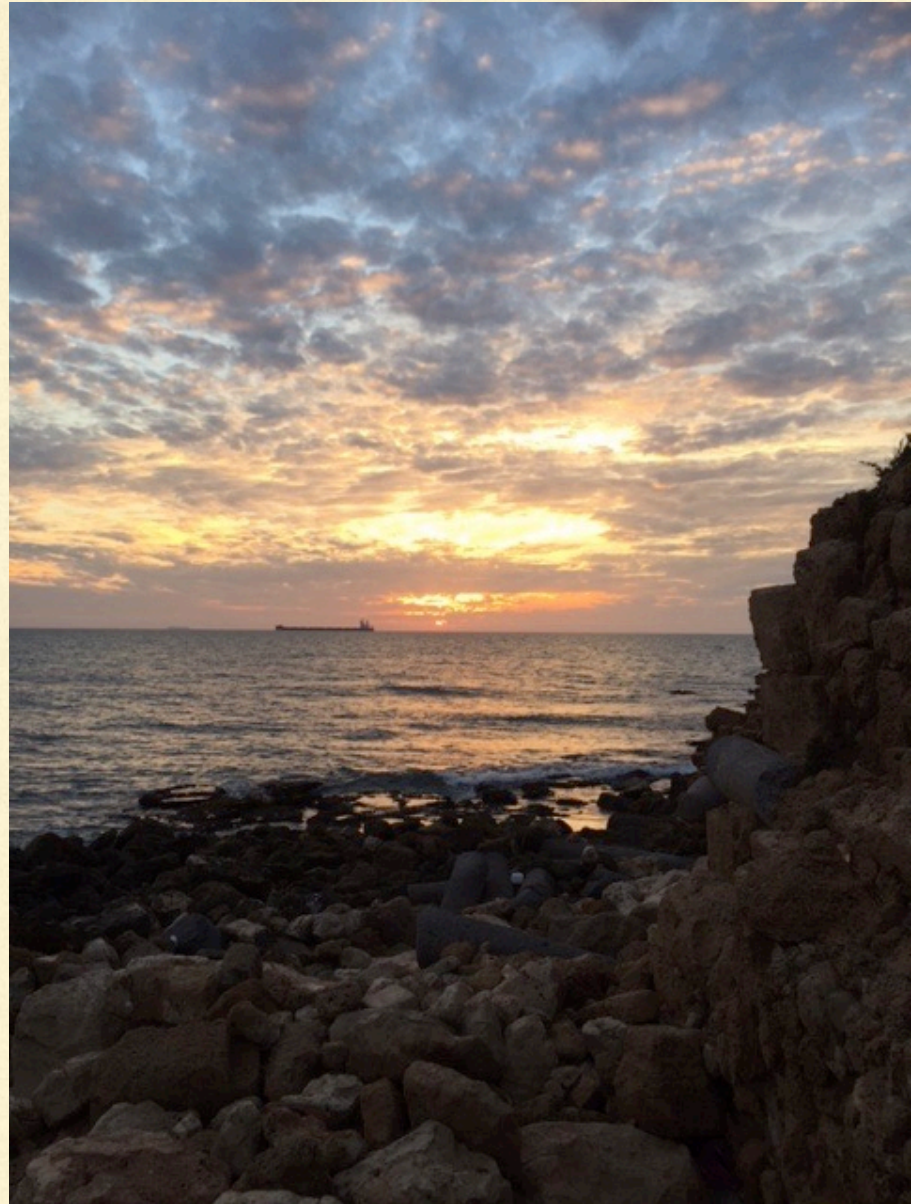


PHOTO OF THE WEEK

DAN IN ISRAEL



This week HGE has been doing a variety of service projects in Israel. We spent a few days in Ashdod working with Beit Hallel, refurbishing their humanitarian center as well as painting an apartment for a Holocaust survivor.

From Ashdod we have moved to OrAkiva to work on a Community Center for new immigrants to Israel. It is our belief at HGE that our actions accentuate our words and it is a blessing to serve the people of Israel.

You can check out photos of our work projects on our Holy Ground Explorations Facebook Page.



HEADLINES

After an IED on the Gaza border seriously wounded two IDF soldiers, Israel struck 18 targets in the strip: including Hamas weapons-manufacturing sites and training infrastructures. As the Israeli Air Force pounds Hamas targets for the second time in 48 hours in reaction to a rocket attack, Defense Minister Liberman confirmed that Israel destroyed a fifth Hamas tunnel.

HALEY'S HIGH HEEL KICK -- "I will decline the advice I was recently given by your top negotiator, Saeb Erekat. I will not shut up. Rather, I will respectfully speak some hard truths." Haley to Abbas: US wants a peace deal but will not 'chase after you'

Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon called out Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas for "running away" and refusing to engage in dialogue after addressing the United Nations Security Council.



GAZA BORDER



Four IDF soldiers were wounded when an explosive device was detonated on an IDF patrol along the Gaza Strip border on Saturday. Two of the soldiers were in a serious condition and two were moderately hurt, the army said. "The incident on the Gaza border is very serious.



We will respond appropriately," Netanyahu said, sending his wishes for a rapid recovery to the injured soldiers. After an IED on the Gaza border seriously wounded two IDF soldiers, Israel struck 18 targets in the strip: including Hamas weapons-manufacturing sites and training infrastructures.



HAMAS AND FATAH



The two rival parties, Fatah and Hamas, are prepared to lay aside their differences and work together to foil US President Donald Trump's plan for peace in the Middle East, the details of which remain unknown. Thwarting Trump's peace plan has become a top priority.

Although the details of the Trump plan still have not been made public, Palestinians across the political spectrum say they will never accept any peace initiative presented by the Trump administration.



TAYLOR FORCE ACT



The act was named in honor of Force, a former US Army officer who was stabbed to death during a knifing spree by a Palestinian terrorist in Tel Aviv while on an academic exchange program in Israel.

"Enough is enough," Lamborn continued. "It is time we hold the Palestinian Authority accountable for financially incentivizing terrorism. My colleagues and I urge the Senate to provide this critical legislation with a vote without delay."

On Sunday, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer promised to do "everything I can to pass" the bill by unanimous consent. "I've checked with every Democratic senator," Schumer said. "Not a single Democrat would block it."



RUSSIA AND ISRAEL



Moscow's deputy ambassador in Tel Aviv says while Israel was right to shoot down intruding drone, he doesn't buy IDF's assertion that Tehran was behind Saturday's launch

Were Iran to attack Israel, Moscow would stand by the Jewish state's side, a Russian official said this week, days after an Iranian-made drone infiltrated Israel from Syria and was shot down by the IDF.



"In the case of aggression against Israel, not only will the United States stand by Israel's side – Russia, too, will be on Israel's side," Russian Deputy Ambassador to Israel Leonid Frolov said. "Many of our countrymen live here in Israel, and Israel in general is a friendly nation, and therefore we won't allow any aggression against Israel."



ROCK THROWERS



"We are very proud that we are stone throwers, I'm one of them. Abu Shawesh added details about his own stone throwing during the first Intifada. "I was in high school. I never missed an opportunity to throw stones. This is our life. We develop our resistance every day. We're proud of it." I am now doing my best to teach my children the art of rock throwing!



When informed of Abu Shawesh's comments, Danny Danon, Israel's Ambassador to the UN stated that "the PA are no longer trying to hide the truth. The PA leadership and its representatives are inciting against Israel and openly encouraging terrorism. The international community must not allow it." "It cannot be that inside the UN, which is supposed to make peace and protect human rights, a diplomat will incite to violence and terrorism.



HEZBOLLAH ROCKETS



A pro-Hezbollah website boasted that in a year, the Iran-backed terror group could have 500,000 missiles, which, according to an expert, would give Hezbollah the ability to “saturate Israel with rockets,” making the next war “nasty,” the *Washington Free Beacon* reported.



“The strategy may now be emerging: saturate Israel with rockets from two northern fronts and overwhelm their air defenses,” Schanzer assessed. “Israel has some big decisions ahead. The longer they wait to neutralize this threat, the more nasty that two-front rocket arsenal becomes.”



NIKKI HALEY



"Iran was once again doing what it does—risking conflict and testing the will of its neighbors and opponents to resist its aggression," said Haley. The United States will always stand by our ally when confronted with provocations from Iran, Hezbollah or the Assad regime." "Israel rightly took action to defend itself.

She added that "the Assad regime has become a front for Iran, Hezbollah and their allies to advance the irresponsible and dangerous agenda for the Middle East."

The drone flight, she said, serves as "a wake-up call for all of us. Iran and Hezbollah are making plans to stay in Syria."



BIBI THREATENS IRAN



Addressing the Munich Security Conference in Germany on Sunday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed that Israel "will act if necessary, not just against Iran's proxies that are attacking us, but against Iran itself."

The Israeli leader displayed a piece of an Iranian drone that was captured in Israel as evidence of the growing Iranian aggression.

Former chief of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, Mohsen Rezaei states that Tel Aviv will be "leveled to the ground" if Israel attacks Iran, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will not escape with his life, a senior official in the Islamic republic's regime threatened.



QUOTE — RON BERGMAN



On Saturday morning, at the Munich Security Conference, I sat in front of the Polish prime minister, who made every effort not to mention the scandalous law he initiated in his country according to which a claim that Poles helped the Nazis will be a criminal offense.

I got up and talked a bit about my family, about my late mother, and about the betrayal of their Polish neighbors and friends.

The answer stunned me and the hundreds of people present in the hall - leaders of countries, defense ministers, heads of intelligence organizations. "There were Polish perpetrators in the war," he said, "just as they were Jewish perpetrators."



UPCOMING TOURS

ENGAGING ISRAEL - MARCH 8-16

EXPERIENCING ISRAEL - APRIL 22-MAY 1

OFF THE BEATEN PATH - OCTOBER 9-18

PETRA / JERASH / MT. NEBO EXTENSION OCTOBER 18-23

