

**HGE - MIDDLE EAST UPDATE - WEEK OF MARCH 16, 2018**

**KAFIR**



**YOUNG LIONS CLUB**



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# DAN IN ISRAEL

Our days are soon coming to an end here in Israel. All the groups have been amazing!

However, I have been sensing somewhat of a strange calm, and believe that something "big" is about to happen. It may be the announcement of Mike Pompeo as the new Secretary of State or maybe it will be what happens closer to May 14th when the 70th Anniversary coincides with the opening of the American Embassy??? We will just have to wait and see!



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# HEADLINES

Following on the heels of the United States and Guatemala, Paraguay and Honduras have announced that they are ready “in principle” to relocate their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, according to Israel’s Army Radio.

Arab diplomats are quietly nudging Mahmoud Abbas to accept whatever peace plan offered by Donald Trump, rather than risk future regret.

Judge Malka Aviv in the case of Yehuda Glick vs. the Israeli Police ruled that the police “must make sure that Jews are able to pray on the Temple Mount”. The police are legally bound “to ensure that Jews are able to pray on the Temple Mount.

With the Trump peace plan nearly finished, White House officials are now worried about how to roll out the initiative without it being declared dead on arrival, reports the [New York Times](#). The Palestinians insist they won’t accept the US as a mediator and the increasing likelihood of early Israeli elections further complicates US peace efforts.



# MIKE POMPEO



Donald Trump fired Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, replacing him with CIA director Mike Pompeo. It's not yet clear what the shift means for the White House's Mideast peace efforts, but Pompeo has a hawkish history on Israel and Iran. Secretary of State nominee 'friend of Israel,' critic of Iran deal

It appears that President Trump's nominee for Secretary of State, CIA director Mike Pompeo, views Israel favorably and sees the Iran nuclear deal as fatally flawed.



# IDF HITS GAZA



Several improvised explosive devices (IED) were detonated adjacent to the Israel-Gaza border fence Thursday morning. No injuries were reported, and IDF tanks returned fire at Hamas targets inside the Strip, including at least one Hamas lookout point.

The incident was the latest in a series of incidents along the border fence in recent weeks. Last month, four IDF soldiers were injured, including two seriously, when an IED exploded as sappers checked for suspicious devices.

In response to that incident, the IDF launched one of the largest strikes against targets in the Gaza Strip since the 2014 Operation Protective Edge.



# TRUMP AND IRAN



**"Trump told Netanyahu U.S. will pull out of Iran deal if big changes not made" by Barak**

**Ravid:** "President Trump told Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu in their meeting at the White House last Monday that he won't show flexibility in the negotiations with France, Germany and the U.K. on amending the Iran nuclear deal..."



The officials say Trump told Netanyahu that until now the three European powers only proposed "cosmetic changes" that he doesn't find satisfactory... Trump stressed that if his demands are not met, the U.S. will withdraw from the deal."



# LINDSEY GRAHAM



**Sen. Lindsey Graham writes...** With the help of Vladimir Putin and Bashar Assad, Iran is winning. Sunni Arabs, Israel and the U.S. are on their heels... This growing threat on the Israel-Syria border must be confronted before it becomes a launchpad for more rockets into Israel. The biggest concern is Hezbollah's militarization of southern Lebanon. Soon Israel will have to attack these rocket sites, which Hezbollah has integrated into civilian infrastructure...

Israeli leaders are concerned that this integration will lead to high civilian casualty rates if the Jewish state has to defend itself.





# SAUDI'S NUKES



**Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on CBS This Morning:** The next leader of Saudi Arabia says his country would quickly obtain a nuclear bomb if arch rival Iran successfully develops its own nuclear weapon. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman made the statement to "CBS This Morning" co-host Norah O'Donnell...



# UN ACCUSES ISRAEL



In a report to the UN Human Rights Council, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein claimed Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank is a "war crime." It is one of six reports on Israel that will be presented to the council on March 19.

Five charge Israel with human rights abuses in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, and the sixth focuses on Israeli actions on the Golan Heights. One of the reports also dedicates a third of its content to charges of human rights abuses by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and by the PA and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.



Israel remains the only country with so many reports issued against it. The Human Rights Council, for example, has issued only a single report each on human rights issues in countries such as Syria and Iran.



# CHRISTIAN SUPPORT



Americans' support for Israel among highest ever recorded. Even among Democrats and the young, Israel enjoys at least a two-to-one advantage over Palestinian Authority.



Concerning Jews making their Aliyah - What was once a strictly Jewish-funded mission is increasingly being bankrolled by evangelical Christians. Israel's Christian allies now fund about a third of all immigrants moving to the country, according to a tally by The Associated Press.

The figures reflect the ever-tightening relationship between Israel and its evangelical Christian allies, whom Israel has come to count on for everything from political support to tourism dollars.



# NORTHERN RUMBLINGS



Hezbollah has declared emergency preparedness and put its forces on high alert after obtaining intelligence that Israel is planning a surprise attack with the support of the United States, the London-based Pan-Arab news website *Rai Al-Youm* reported Thursday.

The website quoted sources within Hezbollah as saying that “the state of emergency was announced following intelligence that the IDF is carrying out secret maneuvers alongside joint-maneuvers with the United States within Lebanon and off its coast.”

Hezbollah’s assessment is that Israel recently received the green light from the United States to attack in Lebanon, and that Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was successful in convincing the Americans to take part in “swift surprise attack” against the organization.



# WEEKLY QUOTE



The eagle is a prominent bird in the Bible and in Jewish thought. The eagle is able to fly higher than most other birds. According to the medieval commentator *Rashi*, *Hashem* (God) uses the metaphor of the eagle when describing the Exodus of the Children of Israel from Egypt for this exact reason. Most other types of birds carry their young from their legs, dangling beneath them. Alternatively, eagles who fly higher than other birds, carry their young on their backs. Since the eagle flies higher than other birds, it fears no other flying predators. The eagle's only concern is people who may shoot at its young from below, and so it uses its own body as a shield for its children. Similarly, *Hashem* placed His angel between the Children of Israel and the Egyptians to protect His children from any potential attacks.



# UPCOMING TOURS

EXPERIENCING ISRAEL - APRIL 22-MAY 1  
OFF THE BEATEN PATH - OCTOBER 9-18

