

HGE - MIDDLE EAST UPDATE - WEEK OF MARCH 2, 2018

KAFIR



YOUNG LIONS CLUB

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DAN IN POLAND



This week we have been in Poland visiting both the new Fountain of Tears gallery just outside of the gates of Auschwitz as well as the whole of Auschwitz / Birkenau complex.

It is hard to put into words what one "feels" when walking these grounds - sometimes I wonder if the sun ever shines here. The weather has been frigid and if one listens sometimes I believe I can still hear the silent voices of the 1.1 Jews who were exterminated at the is site.

As anti-semitism grows ask one must ask: *"can this ever happen again?" (Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it!)*



HEADLINES

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to invite US President Donald Trump to Israel in May to inaugurate the US embassy, which Washington announced on Friday will be relocated to Jerusalem on Israel's Independence Day.

POLL: Likud gaining strength despite Netanyahu graft allegations

"It won't be loved by either side, and it won't be hated by either side," US Ambassador Haley said of the US peace plan, which she said will soon be unveiled. **NIKKI HALEY**

The fact that Poland has sent a delegation to Israel to work out the differences concerning the Holocaust law should be seen as a source of measured optimism for the future concerning Polish-Israeli relations. The legislation prescribes prison time for using phrases such as "Polish death camps" to refer to the camps which Nazi Germany operated in occupied Poland during World War II.



TRUMP'S PLAN



The report says that under Trump's peace plan, the U.S. will recognize an independent Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital on condition that the disputed old city, home to sites holy to Judaism, Christianity and Islam, is administered by an international custodian.



Under the plan, the future Palestinian state will reportedly have limited sovereignty and demilitarized security forces. Israel will not withdraw to the 1967 lines and will retain sovereignty over the larger settlement blocs and the Jordan Valley. The settlements near the large blocs will be absorbed into them, while isolated settlements will be dismantled. Palestinians will also be required to give up their "right of return."



ISRAEL PREPARING



"Southern Lebanon is where the next war is coming... They've told us in no uncertain terms that if this threat continues -- they keep making rockets that can hit the airport and do a lot of damage to the state of Israel -- they are going to have to go in," Graham said...



"They (Iran and Hezbollah) are testing Trump," Graham said... Graham said the major request from Israel in a meeting with that country's leaders was "ammunition, ammunition, ammunition" and for diplomatic support if Israel strikes civilian targets in Lebanon where it believes Hezbollah is located."



IRAN MISSILE BASE



The images, taken by Israeli firm ImageSat International, clearly show what is believed to be a new Iranian base in Jabal ash Sharqi, a mountainous area eight miles northwest of Damascus.

The base is believed to be operated by the Quds Force, the Revolutionary Guard Corps' elite division responsible for overseas operations. The images show two new white hangars, which Western intelligence sources said are likely used to store medium- and long-range missiles capable of hitting all of Israel.



POLISH PROBLEM



Relations between Poland and Israel are in their deepest crisis in memory in the wake of Poland's move to criminalize criticism of Polish collaboration with the Nazis during the Holocaust.

Poland is a very antisemitic country. According to a 2008 Pew survey of European sentiments towards Jews, Poland is the second most anti-Jewish country in Europe (Spain is first). 36 percent of Poles express hostility towards Jews.

Poland's anti-Semitism is a problem. But even with its extensive bigotry against Jews, Poland isn't the worst country in Europe from a Jewish or an Israeli perspective, which just goes to show how hostile Europe is to Israel and to Jews.



PA TEXTBOOKS



A recent study of Palestinian textbooks found that Palestinian children are being taught to glorify and value terrorism and violence. The Palestinian Authority and its Minister of Education, Sabri Saidam, want Arab schools in Jerusalem to teach the students why Muslims should be killing Jews.



“Within the pages of the textbooks, children are being taught to be expendable. Messages such as: 'The Volcano of My Revenge'; 'The Longing of my Blood for my Land'; and 'I Shall Sacrifice My Blood to Saturate the Land' suffuse the [Palestinian] curriculum. Math books use numbers of dead martyrs to teach arithmetic.



PA FUMMING



The Palestinians fumed over the weekend following reports that the United States will move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem within months.

"This is an unacceptable step. Any unilateral move will not give legitimacy to anyone and will be an obstacle to any effort to create peace in the region," said Nabil Abu Rudeineh.



Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri, said, "Moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem is a declaration of war against the Arab and Muslim nation, and the U.S administration must reconsider its move."

Hamas slams US Embassy move as 'declaration of war' on Muslims Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat warns relocation of U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem will destroy two-state solution, provoke Muslims, Christians worldwide



PA AND TRUMP



Official PA daily op-ed portrayed Trump as a "racist" and "Zionist": "His political decisions... stem from a complex, impulsive, unbalanced, and mentally unstable personality, and in our opinion these are the main characteristics of the racist personality."



"He is not only aggressive, rude, and controlling, but a combination of a mentality of theft with the negation and denial of the rights of others, and these are exactly the characteristics of the Zionist personality."



NEW DIG



Dr. Eilat Mazar of the Hebrew University's Institute of Archaeology announced that her team has made an outstanding discovery in an area surrounding the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. "We appear to have discovered a seal impression which may have belonged to the prophet Isaiah," she said. What makes the find so intriguing is that it was found along with almost two dozen others just a few meters away from where, in 2015, Mazar's team found a completely intact bulla with the inscription "of King Hezekiah of Judah." If the newly found seal truly did belong to Isaiah, this would make makes perfect sense, as the Bible details the close relationship Isaiah had with 12th king of the Kingdom of Judah.



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

