

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

KAFIR



YOUNG LIONS CLUB



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WEEKLY HEADLINES

'I Feel The Change' in the UN: Israeli Ambassador Danny Danon

Danny Danon tells CBN's Gordon Robertson that Israel has made headway in the global body since his US counterpart, Ambassador Nikki Haley assumed her post.

Prime Minister Netanyahu praised Congress and US President Donald Trump Sunday for passing the Taylor Force Act, which will deduct aid money from the Palestinian Authority to offset PA payouts to the families of terrorists who attack Israelis.

Israel's security forces are gearing up for huge "Land Day" protests, expected to take place along the Gaza Strip's security fence on Friday, putting additional units on alert out of concerns that large numbers of Palestinians might try to break through the barrier and rush into Israel.

"[Former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen] Harper said one of the only times he wished he was back in office was when Trump made his speech about Jerusalem. He wished he could have stood beside him and done the same.



HATE CRIME



French authorities said Monday that two men arrested for the brutal killing in Paris of an 85-year-old Jewish woman, Holocaust survivor Mireille Knoll, would be charged with an anti-Semitic murder. The two suspects have been put in custody. It said it was asking investigating judges to charge the pair with premeditated murder of a vulnerable person for anti-Semitic motives.



Family members of Mireille Knoll, the 85-year-old Holocaust survivor who was stabbed to death and set on fire in her Paris apartment on Friday night, told Israeli media on Tuesday she had known one of her assailants, a Muslim neighbor, since he was seven years old. An autopsy showed Knoll had been stabbed 11 times before the apartment was set on fire.



PAY FOR SLAY



Israel's Ambassador to the (UN) Danny Danon decried the decision by the Palestinian Authority (PA) to continue to fund payments to terrorist and their families from its official budget.

"[Palestinian leader] Mahmoud Abbas has once again revealed his true intentions as he directly pays hundreds of millions of dollars to terrorists with blood on their hands," Danon charged on Wednesday.

The PA has authorized its 2018 budget which includes payments of \$355 million to convicted terrorists and the families of terrorists as part of their 2018 budget according (PMW).



RUSSIA, SYRIA, IRAN



The Iranians are attempting to build their own military bases in Syria as close as possible to the Russian compounds. This Iranian gambit is apparently based on the assessment that Israel – which has vowed to prevent Iran from establishing a permanent military presence across its northern border – is unlikely to risk attacking facilities that are located near Russian forces and angering Moscow.

This new building work, which the sources said is not being coordinated with Russia, potentially turns the nearby Russian forces into de facto human shields in any future conflict with Israel.

The Iranian move is one of several developments in Syria that indicate Moscow and Tehran are no longer quite as much in lockstep when it comes to Syria. While Moscow accepts that the presence of Shiite ground forces in Syria is vital to ensure President Bashar Assad's continued control of the country, some of Iran's broader actions and efforts to expand its footprint in the Syrian arena are causing consternation in the Kremlin.



GAZA UPRISING

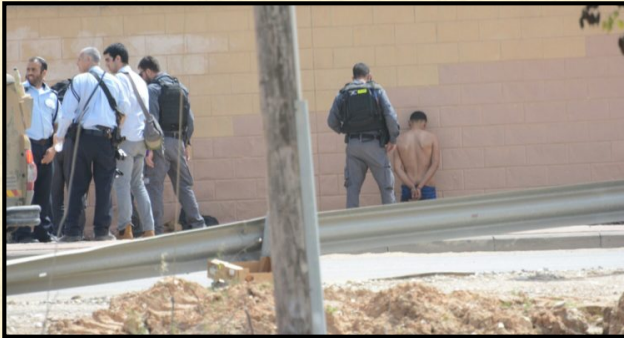


Hamas To Force Israel's Hand With 'Return March' Of Thousands Of Palestinians. Hamas has adopted a new method of fighting Israel by using civilians in the same way it did during Operation Protective Edge in 2014 -- as human shields.

The "Return March" planned for Friday is a cynical exploitation of Palestinian refugees and a publicity stunt that has no political benefit. The refugee problem can only be solved through diplomatic means by a body representing the Palestinians that recognizes Israel's right to exist -- not through a terrorist organization that wants to destroy it. Even if Hamas makes a huge media impact with its march, within a few weeks it will disappear into a cloud of oblivion.



INFILTRATION



IDF forces on Tuesday arrested three armed Palestinians who infiltrated into Israel from the Gaza Strip. During a routine patrol of the southern Gaza border fence, soldiers detected footprints leading from the Strip 20 kilometers into Israel. Additional security forces were alerted, while local residents were notified of the possible danger.

The IDF subsequently arrested three Palestinians armed with knives and grenades near the Tse'elim IDF base, some 20 km. from (12.5 miles) the border.

The Israeli military stated that it has launched an inquiry into the incident, calling it "very serious." They will examine how the terrorists managed to scale the border obstacles and managed to get deep into Israeli territory.

This latest incident occurred as tensions on the border with Gaza are running high.



BRONZE COINS

Bronze coins, the last remnants of a four-year Jewish revolt against the Roman Empire, were found near the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, at the Ophel, located below the Temple Mount's southern wall.

These 1.5cm bronze coins were left behind by Jewish residents who hid in a cave for four years (66-70 C.E.) during the Roman siege of Jerusalem, up until the destruction of the Second Temple and the city of Jerusalem.

"A discovery like this—ancient coins bearing the words 'Freedom' and 'Redemption'—found right before the Jewish Festival of Freedom, Passover, begins, is incredibly moving," Dr. Mazar noted.



In addition to Hebrew inscriptions, the coins were decorated with Jewish symbols, such as four plant species mentioned in relation to the Sukkot holiday: palm, myrtle, citron and willow, and a picture of the goblet that was used in the Temple service.



WEEKLY QUOTE



**Better to fight for something
than to live for nothing.**

- George S. Patton

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UPCOMING TOURS

EXPERIENCING ISRAEL - APRIL 22-MAY 1

NEW FALL OFFERINGS
OFF THE BEATEN PATH - OCT 14-24
REVEALING ISRAEL - OCT 25-NOV 3

