

HGE - MIDDLE EAST UPDATE - WEEK OF APRIL 20, 2018

KAFIR



YOUNG LIONS CLUB



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WEEKLY HEADLINES

Assad vows to 'crush' his enemies after night of US-led airstrikes - Syrian leader gets support from Iran, Hezbollah after US, UK, France fire over 100 missiles at sites linked to his chemical weapons program.

The IDF announced it discovered and destroyed another cross-border terror tunnel from Gaza which was "ready for use." It's the fifth cross-border tunnel destroyed in the last five months. Haaretz reports it was found "near the site where Palestinians have been protesting along the Israel-Gaza border for the past several weeks."

Lawmakers in Honduras voted on Thursday to relocate the country's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

This week in Gaza: Terror tunnel that stretched into Israel was destroyed as well as an "bomb" placed within the roof of a truck heading into Israel.

Israel celebrates it's 70 years while Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas threaten a multi-front attack.



ISRAEL STRIKES



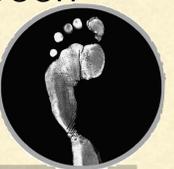
The Israeli strike on the T4 base in Syria on April 9 targeted anti-aircraft defenses brought by Iran's Revolutionary Guard to the base to use against Israeli Air Force aircraft, the WSJ reported Tuesday. Prime Minister Netanyahu reportedly ordered the strike after conferring with U.S. President Trump.

Israel has refrained from making any official statement on the strike, which is believed to have dealt a serious blow to Iran's drone deployment in Syria. But the NY Times quoted an unnamed Israeli defense official on Monday as confirming that it was the IAF that had struck T4.



Iran was outraged by the strike and, unlike its usual downplaying of previous indirect incidents, openly acknowledged its losses and vowed to take revenge. "The crimes will not remain unanswered," said Ali Akbar Velayati, a top adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

Last week, Israel reported that an Iranian drone that breached Israeli airspace on Feb. 10 and was downed by the IAF had been rigged with explosives. This incident prompted Iran to bolster its defenses at the T4 base.



IRANIAN DRONE



The Iranian drone that the IDF downed in February was armed with explosives for a terror attack on Israel. The IDF confirmed reports weeks following the incident, it stating "An analysis of the flight path and operational and intelligence research performed on parts of the Iranian UAV that entered our territory on February 10 shows it carried explosive material and its mission was to carry out a destructive operation."

The IDF destroyed the drone shortly after it entered Israeli airspace. United States Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, addressed the event during the UN Security Council, the first country aside from Israel to address the aggression in a public forum. She stated, "Iranian-backed militias in southern Syria launched a drone into Israeli territory. It was an egregious and unprompted escalation." She added "The drone flight this week is a wake-up call for all of us. Iran and Hezbollah are making plans to stay in Syria. Iran was once again doing what it does, risking conflict and testing the will of its neighbors and opponents to resist its aggression. Israel rightly took action to defend itself." She assured Israel and the Council that "The United States will always stand by our ally when confronted with provocations from Iran, Hezbollah, or the Assad regime."



ISRAEL / IRAN



"Israel hints it could hit Iran's 'air force' in Syria" by Dan Williams:

"Israel released details on Tuesday about what it described as an Iranian "air force" deployed in neighboring Syria...

Roni Daniel, military editor for Israeli TV station Mako, said the disclosure was a signal to Iran that its deployments in Syria "are totally exposed to us, and if you take action against us to avenge (the T-4 strike) these targets will be very severely harmed." [[Reuters](#)]



US / SYRIA



VIEW FROM DC -- "Lindsey Graham "unnerved" after Syria briefing" by Alan

He: "Everything in that briefing made me more worried, not less," the South Carolina Republican said after a briefing lawmakers had with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford on Tuesday. "This makes no sense to me." ... Graham feared that if the U.S. stays on its current course, Syria will fall into the hands of the Russians and Iranians, which would be a nightmare scenario for Israel. Graham said there is no military strategy currently on the table to deal with the influence of Iran and Russia. "It seems to me the president is going to pull out of Syria as soon as he can." [[CBSNews](#)]



TRUMP – HOLOCAUST



HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE -- As Israelis observed the Yom HaShoah this week with a moment of silence and several ceremonies, President Donald Trump proclaimed April 12 through April 19 as the "Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust." Trump also tweeted, "On Yom HaShoah we remember the six million Jews slaughtered in the Holocaust."

Meanwhile, a new survey found that many U.S. adults lack basic knowledge of what happened in the Holocaust. **As many as 41% -- including 66% of millennials - cannot say what Auschwitz was. Sen. Chuck Schumer called the survey "extremely troubling."**



GOOD FOR CHINA



On Wednesday, Stand With Us, a non-profit pro-Israel education and advocacy organization based in Los Angeles posted the photo on their Facebook page, saying:

Yosef Rabin writes, "An Israeli Flag has not flown on the Temple Mount since the 1967 War. Today Chinese tourists brought an Israeli Flag up to the Temple Mount. I am not sure how they got the flag past security and how the Waqf [Jordanian Islamic security that controls the Temple Mount] or police did not notice, but this sets a massive precedent - I hope.

In the meantime, A BIG THUMBS UP FOR THE CHINESE!!!"





WEEKLY QUOTE

"Serve a greater cause than yourself; it will enrich your life."

Shimon Peres



UPCOMING TOURS

NEW FALL OFFERINGS

OFF THE BEATEN PATH - OCT 14-24

REVEALING ISRAEL - OCT 25-NOV 3

