

**HGE - MIDDLE EAST UPDATE - WEEK OF MAY 10, 2018**

**KAFIR**



**YOUNG LIONS CLUB**



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**KFIR**

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# WEEKLY HEADLINES

Neither President Donald Trump nor Vice President Mike Pence will be in attendance when the U.S. opens its embassy in Jerusalem next week.

A new poll indicates that a majority of Israelis support Netanyahu's Iran policies and close to half are in favor of a strike on its nuclear site.

The Palestinian terrorists responsible for killing Eitam and Naama Henkin; Yosef, Elad and Chaya Salomon; Raziell Shevach; and Itamar Ben-Gal will each receive at least NIS 10 million (\$2.77 million) by their 80th birthdays.

Will 100,000 Palestinians breach Israel's border on Tuesday? Will there be violence, and will Israel be condemned? HonestReporting helps you prepare for the conversation.

Overnight clashes show Shiite 'monster' in Syria is limited, for now Israel's fear is less of continued rocket fire from Syria and more of the potential for confrontation with Lebanon's Hezbollah



# TRUMP PULLS OUT



US President Donald Trump finally exited the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran on Tuesday, pledging at a special briefing at the White House that he will immediately impose the “highest level of economic sanctions” to deter the Tehran regime’s pursuit of nuclear weapons.



Trump declared, “We will not allow a regime that chants ‘Death to America’ to gain access to the most dangerous weapons on the Earth.”

Trump was no less forgiving of his predecessor on Tuesday, stating that the “disastrous deal gave this regime – a regime of great terror – many billions of dollars, some of it in actual cash.”



# IS WAR BREWING?



"Israel and Iran lurched closer to an all out war in Syria on Thursday after Iranian forces allegedly fired rockets into the Golan Heights and Israel responded with some of its heaviest airstrikes in years. The exchange of fire was the most direct confrontation between the Middle East rivals after years of escalating tensions in Syria."



"By Thursday morning, the country's air force had destroyed "nearly all" of Iran's military infrastructure in Syria, according to Israel's defense minister, Avigdor Lieberman. "If there is rain on our side, there will be a flood on their side," Mr. Lieberman said... He added, "I hope we have finished with this round and that everybody understood." [\[NYTimes\]](#)



# BIBI'S APPROVAL



Netanyahu Surges in Polls After Trump Withdraws From Iran Nuclear Deal: "The Likud party would surge to 35 Knesset seats if elections were held today, up from 30 in the current Knesset, according to a poll released on Wednesday. Israel Television News, which commissioned the poll, said this is the highest Likud has polled in the past decade." [[Haaretz](#) [[To!](#)]



# HEZBOLLAH



Hezbollah to Israel after election win: We are not wasting time. Iranian-backed Hezbollah and its allies win at least 65 seats in May 6 elections as Saudi-back PM Saad Hariri loses nearly a third of his power. Hezbollah deputy chief vows to "protect Lebanon from any attempts by Israel to seize its territory."



Hezbollah and its political allies made significant gains in Lebanon's parliamentary election, official results show, boosting the Iran-backed terrorist group and underscoring Iran's growing regional clout.

Hezbollah and its political allies have apparently won at least 65 out of 128 seats in the Lebanese parliament, according to results from all but one of Lebanon's 15 electoral districts.



# TURKEY



## Erdogan Calls for 'ARMY of Islam' to ATTACK Israel

Turkey's President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) have announced they want to create an "army of Islam" to wage war against Israel. (*Turkey, an Islamic country, has been supporting ISIS and killing Kurds, but it is still a NATO member state*)



# US PEACE PLAN



Four Arab neighborhoods would be transferred to the control of the Palestinian Authority (PA) to form its capital: Isawiya, Shuafat, Jebel Mukabar and Abu Dis, the report says. These areas have long been considered by some US and Israeli officials as a possible location for a Palestinian capital.

While some Israeli officials are in favor of transferring these Arab neighborhoods, on the outskirts of Jerusalem, to the PA in order to increase the Jewish majority in the city, the idea never gained acceptance in government circles.

Another part of the plan, says the report, would be to internationalize the Old City's Holy Basin. This would be completely unacceptable, however, to a majority of Israelis across the political spectrum.

In exchange for such large Israeli concessions, Washington promises to support the Jewish state, both politically and militarily, if Israel goes to war with Syria or Iran.



# JOHN KERRY



It has been reported that former Secretary of State John Kerry met with several foreign leaders including Iranians in an attempt to salvage the nuclear deal with Iran. Some lawmakers are questioning the legality of these negotiations and whether they violate the Logan act.

*The Boston Globe* published a report on Friday claiming that Kerry met with Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif two weeks ago at the United Nations in New York City to discuss salvaging the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). This was reportedly the second meeting Zarif and Kerry had conducted in the past two months.



The Logan Act, enacted in 1799, criminalizes negotiation by unauthorized persons with foreign governments having a dispute with the United States. The intent behind the Act is to prevent unauthorized negotiations from undermining the government's position.



# ROAD SIGNS GO UP



JERUSALEM EMBASSY WATCH -- Road signs pointing to 'US Embassy' go up in Jerusalem: "Jerusalem's city hall says it has put up road signs pointing to the new U.S. Embassy... Mayor Nir Barkat placed the first signs on Monday in the southern Jerusalem neighborhood where the embassy is to be located."



# WEEKLY QUOTES

Mark Twain once said, "Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." Kindness breaks through all barriers, and it's just a beautiful thing. So let's all try a little harder to "pay it forward."\*\*



# UPCOMING TOURS

NEW FALL OFFERINGS

OFF THE BEATEN PATH - OCT 14-24

REVEALING ISRAEL - OCT 25-NOV 3

