

HGE - MIDDLE EAST UPDATE - WEEK OF JUNE 22, 2018

KAFIR



YOUNG LIONS CLUB



HGE PRESENTS

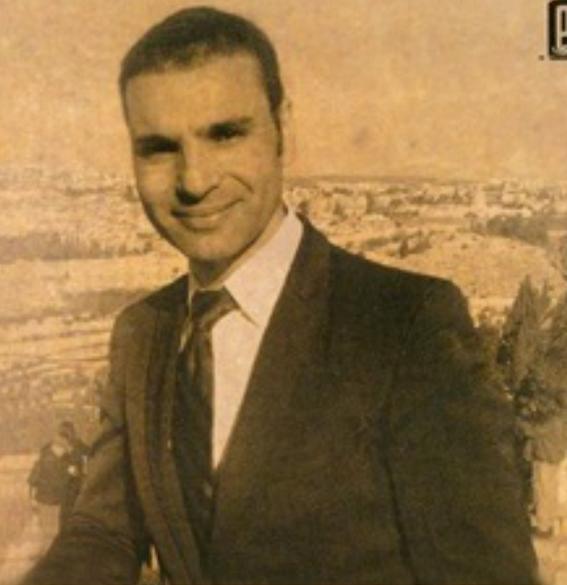
HOLY GROUND EXPLORATIONS presents

MIDDLE-EAST UPDATE

Guest Speaker:

Amir Tsarfati

Tuesday, September 25
KROC Center - Couer d'Alene



UPCOMING TOURS

FALL OFFERINGS

OFF THE BEATEN PATH - OCT 14-24, 2018

SPRING OFFERINGS

REVEALING ISRAEL - FEB 28 - MAR 9, 2019



WHAT'S INSIDE

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WOLF BLITZER

GAZA WAR

WEEKLY QUOTABLE



WEEKLY HEADLINES

Benjamin Netanyahu met with King Abdullah in Amman on Monday to discuss ways to advance regional peace. The last public meeting between the two heads of state took place in November 2014.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the escalation of violence in Gaza is “a warning to all how close to the brink of war the situation is.” He urged Israel and Gaza’s Hamas rulers to recommit to the ceasefire that ended their 2014 war.

Israel’s citizens in the south experienced the most violent night since Operation Protective Edge four years ago as Hamas fired 45 rockets at civilian targets. The IAF attacked in response.

Ivan Duque, Columbia’s new president-elect, has said that his government would look into the idea of moving the embassy to Jerusalem.

Using a ban on Jews on the Temple Mount for the end of Ramadan, Muslims worked night and day to destroy artifacts from the Jewish Temple.



ROCKETS FROM GAZA



Up to 45 Hamas rockets were fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip early Wednesday morning and during the previous night. The IDF Spokesperson's Unit reported that Iron Dome intercepted seven rockets and three were unable to get off the ground far enough to leave the Gaza Strip.

Red alert sirens were heard in Sha'ar HaNegev Regional Council and Hof Ashkelon Regional Council during the early morning and during the previous night sirens were heard in Ashkelon, Gaza border communities and Kerem Shakom in southern Israel.

In response the IAF attacked eight Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip.



US AND THE UNHRC



The Trump administration is expected to announce that the U.S. will withdraw from the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley will use a joint statement in Washington at 5p.m. to announce and explain the departure from the 47-member council.



Haley has been the driving force behind the latest move, which would be unprecedented in the 12-year history of the council. No country has ever dropped out voluntarily. Libya was kicked out seven years ago.

The move could reinforce the perception that the Trump administration is seeking to advance Israel's agenda on the world stage.



UN Human Rights Council Condemnations

Israel: **57**

Islamic Republic of Iran: **4**

Islamic State in Iraq & Syria (ISIS): **1**

Al Qaeda: **0**

Boko Haram: **0**

Fatah: **0**

Hamas: **0**

Hezbollah: **0**

Islamic Jihad: **0**

ABBAS PRESSURED



PA President Abbas is reportedly facing pressure from Arab leaders to meet with US President Trump's top Middle East advisers this week. Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner and US Special Representative Jason Greenblatt will visit Israel, Egypt and Jordan this week to discuss the upcoming US peace plan for the region.



Abbas spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh told Palestinian media Sunday that the US diplomats' visit is "a waste of time" and that the US peace plan is "doomed to fail."

However, several Palestinian sources told *Israel Hayom* that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Jordan, as well as top officials in the Palestinian Authority itself, are pressuring Abbas to meet with the American envoys.



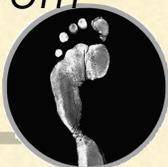
KITE TERRORISM



When will Israeli Legal Stupidity End?

This is not a joke: after the kite terrorism has burned 6,200 acres of agricultural land and nature preserves in Israel's territory, the army is examining whether kites and helium balloons can be defined legally as weapons. The reason is that such a definition would allow the air force to directly attack terrorist squads who launch firebomb kites and balloons and not be forced to suffice with warning shots.

(In its futile attempt, Israel is trying to comply with "international law" that only applies to Israel and even created, to prevent Israel from defending itself!)



WOLF BLITZER



Wolf Blitzer challenged former CIA Director Michael Hayden for comparing the Trump administration's practice of separating children from their families at the border to the Holocaust on CNN's Situation Room: "You understand the controversy that any comparison to the Holocaust, yes, the kids were brought on the trains, to Birkenau which was at Auschwitz. I speak with some authority on this. My grandparents were murdered at Auschwitz. My dad survived, but two of his brothers and two of his sisters were killed. They were separated. They weren't separated to go to some other facility. They were separated to die. They were killed. When you make the comparison to Auschwitz, that's a powerful image."



GAZA WAR



Strategic Affairs Minister Gilad Erdan told Army Radio Thursday that a major military operation in Gaza in “the next few months” with the goal of toppling Hamas is a possibility. Asked if Israel is on the verge of a full-scale military operation in Gaza, Erdan replied in the affirmative: “Yes, there is a very good chance after what we have experienced in the last four weeks. We might have to, in order to return the peace and the deterrence. It would also be a move that shows Hamas has to be taken down. “It’s not something we want, but we might have no choice,” he said.



There was a marked escalation this week in Gaza with terrorists firing dozens of rockets at Jewish communities in the south.



You know your task
in life is not complete
if you are still alive.

