

HGE - MIDDLE EAST UPDATE - WEEK OF AUGUST 3, 2018

KFFR



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

2019 OFFERINGS

REVEALING ISRAEL - FEB 28 - MAR 9, 2019

ISSACHAR TOUR - SEPT 15-24, 2019



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WEEKLY HEADLINES

- * The terror attack in Adam occurred a day after a Fatah official, Osama Qawassmeh, claimed that a stone that fell from the Western Wall onto the plaza below was a sign that Israel was planning to destroy the Al-Aqsa mosque.
- * Trump says he's willing to meet Iranian President Rouhani 'anytime' and without preconditions.
- * Israel warns Iran of military response if it closed key Red Sea strait – by Ori Lewis: "If Iran will try to block the straits of Bab al-Mandeb, I am certain that it will find itself confronting an international coalition that will be determined to prevent this, and this coalition will also include all of Israel's military branches," Netanyahu said at a passing out parade for new naval officers in Haifa. [[Reuters](#)]





PAY FOR SLAY



On Thursday, 17-year-old terrorist Muhammad Tareq Dar Yusuf murdered a 31-year-old Israeli father of two, Yotam Ovadia, and injured two others, before he was shot and killed. The very next day, both the Palestinian Authority and Fatah declared him a "Martyr" (*Shahid*).



By declaring the murderer a "Martyr", the PA is saying that he did an exemplary act according to Islam, for which he will be rewarded in the afterlife by Allah. In addition, the PA will reward the terrorists' family financially, as the PA does all families of so-called "Martyrs," with a one-time grant of 6,000 shekels (\$1,643) and a monthly allowance for life of 1,400 shekels (\$383).



DAVID FRIEDMAN



US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman made a condolence visit Monday to the West Bank home of an Israeli man who was stabbed to death in a terror attack last week.

Friedman traveled to the Adam settlement north of Jerusalem where he met with the family of 31-year-old Yotam Ovadia, who was killed in the Thursday attack by a Palestinian who had sneaked into the settlement.

Friedman met with Ovadia's wife while she observed the traditional Jewish week of mourning for close relatives, known as *shiva*.

"I was heartbroken to see the tragic impact of the murder of Yotam Ovadia – a young mother left alone to care for two small children, parents grieving for their only son. Words are insufficient to describe the evil and barbarity of the terrorist act," he said after leaving the home.



ISIS FIGHTERS



The IDF said it conducted an airstrike late Wednesday night killing seven Islamic State fighters who had crossed the 1974 ceasefire line into Israeli territory. The gunmen had made it some 200 meters (650 feet) past the "alpha line" but did not manage to reach the technical fence bordering the Israeli Golan Heights.



A number of explosive belts and a Kalashnikov rifle were found during searches of the area Thursday morning, according to the army.

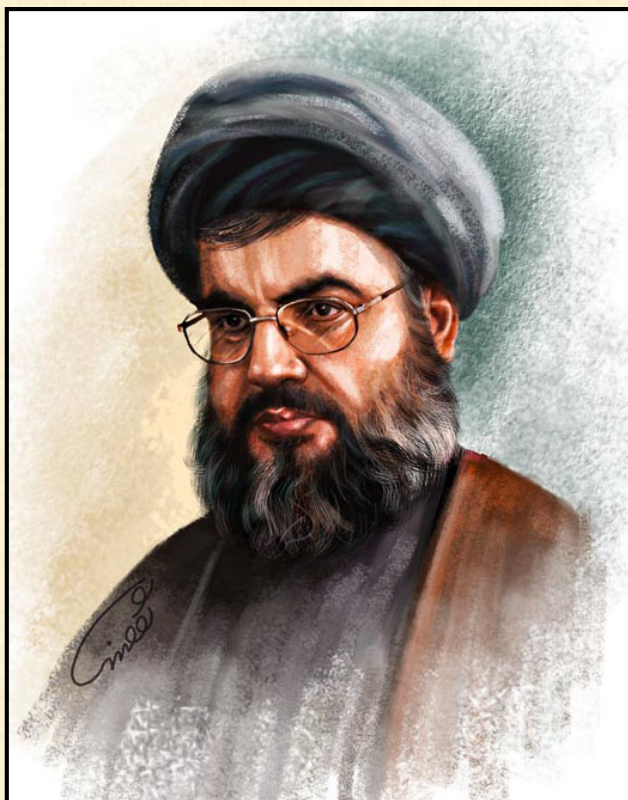
The gunmen had crossed into the Israeli territory through the Syria-Jordan-Israel border triangle.

The Kalashnikov rifle retrieved by Israel following an air strike against gunmen in the Syrian Golan Heights. (IDF)

According to Army Radio, the gunmen were en route to an attack on Israel.



HEZBOLLAH



The Syrian army is expected to complete its takeover of the country's southwest, near the border with Israel, in the next day or two. This will allegedly restore a familiar situation, in which Syria's regime is once again stable, even if under the auspices of Russia.

Hezbollah is a different story. The Iranian-backed Shiite terrorist group is already in Syria. Its operatives are fighting alongside the Syrian army and it has several hundred local villagers on its payroll, who engage in intelligence gathering. This was a strategic decision by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, who wants to turn the Golan border into an active war zone with Israel. Hezbollah is likely to employ its familiar methods: joining local militias, importing its tactical abilities – anti-tank missiles, explosives and snipers – from Lebanon, and importing troops.



DIVIDING JERUSALEM



"Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee... said that Trump is "absolutely committed to the relationship and alliance to Israel," and there is no "unpredictability" in that support...

The president, Huckabee said, has "already shown that he is respectful of Israel's right to a sovereign, secure space," adding that in the plan "I can pretty much guarantee you that Jerusalem will not be divided.'" [[JPost](#)]



NIKKI HALEY



"Haley rarely mentions Trump in her public speeches. According to a Republican close to Trump, Trump has been annoyed with this omission. "He's gotten feedback she never mentions his name at events," the Republican close to the White House said. "Nikki is ambitious. She's going to run. It's just a question of when," a former West Wing official said. "Her staff is very careful when they speak to other people. They always say 2024; one of Haley's people told me 2024 is code for 2020." [[VanityFair](#)]



HEZBOLLAH



"Israel is ramping up attacks against Iranian supply lines in Syria to block the flow of weapons to Hezbollah and other Tehran-backed militias...

Just to be clear: Without Iran/Hezbollah, Syria's Assad would not be in power and would not have the ability to slaughter almost a half-million Syrians.



Without Assad's blessing, the flags of Hezbollah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard would not be on Israel's front door."



DRUZE STATUS



DRIVING THE CONVO – As Israel Enshrines Its Jewish Identity, Its Druze Minority Feels Abandoned – by Dov Lieber and Felicia

Schwartz: "Scores of former senior military and police chiefs are pressing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to revise a recent law enshrining the country as a Jewish nation-state to include the Druze, an ethnic minority ingrained in military and civic life... On Wednesday, Mr. Netanyahu's office offered a draft of a plan to address the community's complaints, including legislation that would "anchor" the status of the Druze in law, offer benefits for minority-group members who serve in the military and recognize Druze's contributions to protecting Israel." [[WSJ](#)]



IF ONLY ISRAEL ...



Thus, if only Israel reversed its settlements policy. If only Israel understood that Gaza's tunnel-diggers and kite-flyers are just exercising their right of "peaceful protest." If only the IDF restrained itself. If only Israel stopped assuming the worst about Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas. If only Israel went the extra mile with President Mahmoud Abbas. If only Israel got beyond its Holocaust trauma. If only Israel _____ - well, go ahead and fill in the blank.



