

Israel Today – Through October 21, 2016
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Deterrence on Israel's Fronts - Amos Yadlin

Hizbullah and Hamas are not now interested in fighting w/ Israel. Hamas suffers from an erosion in public legitimacy and severe public criticism for the last conflict w/ Israel. Egypt has severely damaged the tunnel smuggling system from the Sinai into Gaza, which makes it more difficult for Hamas to restore its military might. Hizbullah and Hamas have not given up on the cause of destroying Israel, and both organizations regard military conflict as a central path to achieve this goal. Stopping them requires strong deterrence and damaging their respective military buildups.

India's Change in Foreign Policy (*Swarajya-India*)

As 24 nations voted in UNESCO to support a resolution on J-lem that insulted humanity's collective intelligence, outgoing Israel FM DG Gold noted that the majority of nations either abstained or voted in favor of Israel. He highlighted India. Indians, irrespective of their religion or language, appreciate and admire Israel's bold stands on terrorism. Pal.jihadists have used Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir for terrorist training.

Settlers Invited Pals for Holidays (*WashPost*)

Efrat is a bedroom community of 10K Jews a few miles S. of Bethlehem in the W. Bank. Efrat's mayor invited Pals from surrounding villages to come to his house and celebrate Sukkot. A couple of dozen Pals accepted. 1K+ Pals work daily in Efrat. Pal. society discourages collaboration and "normalization." *Times of Is.*: 3 Pals who accepted an invitation to the mayor of Efrat's sukkah were summoned by PA intelligence to explain why they had visited "murderers of babies."

Thousands Support of Israel on Sukkot (*AFP*)

Thousands of supporters of Israel from across the globe marched during the annual J-lem March, traditionally held during the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. Many visiting Christian delegations took part.

Israel Sells Heron UAVs to India (*Def. Ind. Daily*)

India will purchase 10 armed UAVs from Israel Aerospace for \$400 M. Israel's Heron-1 drones played a crucial part in search and rescue following the Indian Ocean tsunami in 12/2004. Leased Herons or its variants are operating on behalf of the Australian, Canadian, French, and German armed forces; Brazil's federal police, Ecuador's navy, Singapore's armed forces, and Turkey.

Israel Shares Know-How w/ World (*JPost*)

Surrounded by barren desert and malaria-ridden swampland, the fledgling State of Israel had little food to sustain its inhabitants. Now it is not only nourishing its own

eight million citizens, but is also helping states around the world do the same. Is. Agr. Min.: "The beauty is that Israel is willing to share all its dev't achievements w/ other nations," training 270K participants from 132 countries, of which 70% involved agriculture.

Israel and Infrastructure Projects in Egypt (*Ynet*)

Israel is discussing a series of large-scale infrastructure projects in Egypt for desalinization of sea water, solar energy, electricity production, ag., irrigation and gas.

UNESCO Vote Hurts Pal. Cause – J. S. Tobin

While Pals celebrate the latest vote by UNESCO to treat J-lem's Temple Mount and Western Wall as solely Muslim holy sites, a key element of their ongoing diplomatic campaign to delegitimize Israel, more and more nations are refusing to go along w/ the culture of anti-Semitism and demonization. The true Pal. goal of eliminating Israel moves into plain sight, undermining faith in the possibility of a 2-state solution among Israelis and the rest of the world. The refusal to recognize the legitimacy of a Jewish state no matter its borders dooms their cause to continued futility.

Temples of Jerusalem in Islam - Martin Kramer

The 1st and 2nd Temples in J-lem are both attested by precisely the same Islamic sources which render the Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock holy to Islam. The Qur'an refers to the existence of both temples in verse 17:7. Muslim tradition is adamant about the existence of the First Temple, built by Solomon, who appears in the Qur'an as a prophet and a paragon of wisdom. Accounts of the Temple are offered by many of the early Muslim historians. For Muslims to question the existence of the Temples, in disregard of the Qur'an and Muslim tradition, is to cast doubt upon the very sources which underpin their own claim.

UNESCO Ignores Christian Roots (*Times of Israel*)

A recent UNESCO resolution refers to J-lem holy sites by Muslim names only, ignoring the historic ties of Jews and Christians. In 335 CE, Emperor Constantine inaugurated the Church of the Holy Sepulchre as part of a rebuilt Christian J-lem. The Byzantine Christians in J-lem "saw the Temple Mount as the Jewish center."

Mexico Fires Jewish Ambassador (*JTA*)

Mexico has fired its Jewish ambassador to UNESCO, Andre Roemer for protesting his country's decision to vote for a resolution denying Jewish ties to J-lem. Mexico announced it will now change its vote from "in favor" to "abstain"

PA's Future Is Not in Rewriting History (*JPost*)

On 8/10/1830, the Ottoman Turkish Sultan issued the *firman* that gave legal force to Rachel's Tomb being recognized as a Jewish holy site. The governor of Damascus sent a written order to the Mufti of J-lem to fulfill the Sultan's order. Until the 1990s, Pal. schoolbooks referred to a site, located outside of Bethlehem, as the Tomb of Rachel; Muslim scholars frequently described it as "Rachel's Dome, the Jewish place of worship." Starting in the mid-'90s, the tomb was re-branded as the "Mosque of Bilal ibn Rabah;" Pal. textbooks were rewritten accordingly. Bilal ibn Rabah, Muhammad's first muezzin was buried in Damascus. Recall the famous saying of the Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan: "You are entitled to your opinion. But you are not entitled to your own facts." Distorting facts and teaching falsehoods to advance political goals is a form of child abuse.

Archaeology 110: Jerusalem (*Times of Israel*)

In 1999, the Muslim authorities excavated a gigantic pit in the SE area of the Temple Mount removing 400 truckloads of dirt. The Temple Mount Sifting Project saved for study the vast amount of artifacts that were buried in this soil" hundreds of thousands of artifacts dating to the First and Second Jewish Temple periods and onwards, including Christian- and Muslim-era artifacts. The existence of the Jewish Temples is beyond any doubt.

Islamic Jihad Plots (*JPost*)

The Is. Sec. Agency thwarted an Islamic Jihad plot to carry out an attack at a wedding hall and to kidnap and kill an IDF soldier for the purposes of bargaining w/ Israel. *Ynet*: 4 Pals planned to throw grenades into a crowd celebrating at the Narnia events hall in Beersheba and to use weapons they would hide in trash cans ahead of the attack. They planned the abduction of an IDF soldier from the city's central bus station. A Pal. woman who approached border police with a knife in the W. Bank Wed. was killed by security forces. 5 residents of the Pal. village of Ni'lin were arrested for shooting at IDF forces on Yom Kippur

U.S Wars Pal Re: UN (*Ha'aretz*)

Israeli official: "We have ... no expectations that the Americans won't veto or otherwise torpedo any resolution submitted to the Security Council."

Support for Hamas Is Waning - Graham Jamison
Visiting Gaza in early Sept., one sees construction everywhere: a dozen brand-new residential towers built w/ Qatari funding. Massive rockets appear at traffic circles. Hamas TV runs endless loops of Israeli crimes; animated graphics flash thousands of portraits of Pal. "martyrs." A Pal. woman who works for UNRWA corrected me when

I referred to Israel as "Israel." "It's Palestine." In interviews and casual conversations w/ dozens of Pals over the course of 7 days, I rarely heard someone say they supported Hamas: "You need to be quiet and stop shooting rockets." "Fatah was corrupt, but at least we had jobs, at least we had electricity." Just outside the al-Shati refugee camp stand the giant, garish seaside villas of top Hamas officials.

Pal. Issue in the New ME - Zalman Shoval

Most Pal. Arabs do not see the creation of a Pal. state in parts of "Palestine" as their real aim, but rather the total disappearance of the State of Israel.

Take Risks for Peace - Clifford D. May

Over and over, Israelis are asked to make concessions, to "take risks for peace. Hamas' openly stated goal is Israel's annihilation. As for Abbas, he can't set foot in Gaza and, in the W. Bank, his support has grown so thin he couldn't sign a peace agreement w/ Israel even if he wanted to.

Israel Not Born in Colonialism- Daniel Gordis

Zionism was a product not of 19th century nationalism but of a carefully crafted soulful yearning that was essentially synonymous w/ Judaism for almost two millennia. *The writer is senior vice president at Shalem College in Jerusalem. (Tablet)*

Iran's For-Profit Imprisonment (*WashPost*)

Tehran: 2 American citizens and a permanent US resident had been sentenced to 10 years in prison for "cooperating w/ the hostile US gov't," de facto hostage-taking that the US is powerless to prevent. (*WashFree Beacon*: Iran is seeking billions of dollars in payments from the US in exchange for the release of several US hostages still being detained in Iran

Mosul, and Its Aftermath - Col. (ret.) J. Neriah

The battle of Mosul signals the last gasps of the Islamic Caliphate. Yet Muslim radical movements will continue to flourish as long as they are fed with hatred of Western civilization. (*JPost*)

Rebelling Against PA - Joshua Mitnick

In Balata, 4 PA police officers were killed by gunmen; 4 Nablus residents have died at the hands of police. Pal. security officers say a crackdown intends to restore order and break up gangs. In Nablus, the epicenter of the anti-Abbas movement in Palestine right now, gunfire at night is a regular occurrence. Factions are positioning themselves for a post-Abbas vacuum.

Fatah Prepares for War - Khaled Abu Toameh

300 members of the Aqsa Martyrs Brigades have begun "military training" in Gaza in preparation for war

w/ Israel. Many are former PA policemen, who remain on the PA payroll, and believe that they represent the real Fatah, the one that never recognized Israel's right to exist and holds on to armed struggle as the only way to "liberate Palestine. The int'l community continues to perceive Fatah as the "moderate.". Yet Fatah is not united; many groups within the faction, in their own words, continue to seek the "liberation of Palestine" through armed struggle.

Turkey's Trial of IDF Officers (*Times of Is.*)

The recent reconciliation deal between Israel and Turkey hit a bump Wed. when a Turkish court refused to dismiss a case against members of the Israeli military, key condition of the agreement.

Iranians Seek to Win U.S. Visa Lottery (*LA Times*)

~500K Iranians and 432K spouses/children sought a chance to immigrate to the US under the Diversity Visa lottery in 2015. ~5,000 Iranians were selected.

Fear of an Imminent Terrorist (*WashPost*)

Fear of an imminent terrorist attack is one of the top concerns of people across the globe. Most expect extremist groups to acquire WMD. In the US and India, it was the 2nd-most important issue. In virtually every country, at least 75% said they expect a terrorist attack to occur within the next year.

Argentina Requests Extradition (*AFP-Al Arabiya*)

Argentina issued another extradition warrant for an Iranian ex-FM over the deadly bombing of a Jewish center in Buenos Aires in 1994. Investigators accuse Iranian officials, including Rafsanjani, of orchestrating a bombing at the Argentine Jsh Mutual Ass'n in Buenos Aires. The Iranians ordered Hezbollah to carry out the bombing.

US Sanctions Hezbollah (*Reuters*)

The US Treasury Thurs. imposed sanctions on Hezbollah operatives and a firm that has assisted the organization.

Iran Funding Terrorists (*Wash.Free Beacon*)

On 6/24, Hezbollah secretary-general Hassan Nasrallah: "As long as Iran has money, Hezbollah has money....We receive our rockets w/ which we threaten Israel.

Hezbollah Lauanders Money (*Miami Herald*)

3 suspected associates of Hezbollah, suspected of laundering cocaine money for the Colombian cartel, have been busted. The main player was booked into a Miami-Dade jail last week. Also: Omar Faraj Saeed Al Hardan, who came to Houston from Iraq in 2009, pleaded guilty Mon. to trying to help ISIS by setting off bombs at 2 Houston malls.

Iranian Nuclear Threat (*Is. Hayom*)

Avi Dichter, former head of the Israel Security Agency:

"There is no intention of allowing any Iranian platform - a missile, a plane or anything else - to reach us, and certainly not carrying nuclear weapons." On Hizbullah: "1,600+ of their fighters have been killed, and 6K wounded. That's a lot for an army of 30K."

Russia's Air Defense System in Syria (*WashPost*)

The IDF has approached the Russian Defense Ministry to request that new coordination procedures now that Russia has stationed S-300 anti-aircraft missiles in Syria. The request was made to prevent Russian missile systems in Syria from mistakenly firing at Israeli aircraft. Russia completed the deployment of mobile and interchangeable S-400 and S-300 missile batteries for an integrated air defense system in Syria. Russia now has the ability to shoot down planes and cruise missiles over at least 250 miles in all directions, covering significant portions of Turkey, Israel, Jordan and the eastern Mediterranean as well.

Funding Israeli Political NGOs (*NGO Monitor*)

At a Security Council session Fri., the director of the Israeli political NGO B'Tselem implored the UN to take "decisive int'l action" vs. Israel, without mention of Pal. terror attacks or incitement. 64+% of B'Tselem's annual budget originates w/ foreign gov'ts.

Pals Reject Solution Based on '67 Lines

67% of Pals in the W. Bank oppose an armed intifada in the Pal. territories, 52% in Gaza support. 50% of Palestinians in Gaza say current circumstances compel them to desire to emigrate abroad. *Peace Index*: Per the 10/2016 Peace Index poll by Tel Aviv U., 71% of Israeli Jews do not believe that negotiations between Israel and the PA will lead to peace in the coming years; 25% do believe this.

Egypt Endures a Sugar Crisis (*NYT*)

A week-long sugar shortage has plunged Egyptians into a panic. Egypt's economy is in free fall. Tourism has collapsed, remittances from Egyptian workers in the Persian Gulf have dropped; revenue from the Suez Canal has fallen. Inflation reached 15.5% in August. S. Arabia delayed a shipment of discount petrol products this month. Egyptians buy subsidized food thru gov't-issued electronic cash cards. The gov't also subsidizes water, electricity and gas for all. Prez Sisi reduced the subsidies' share of the budget this year by 14%. *NPR*: Rising prices in Egypt have made marriage unaffordable for tens of thousands of young Egyptians. A prospective groom is responsible for the ap't and furniture; the bride - kitchen appliances. Engagement is sealed w/ gold jewelry from the groom to the bride.

Rift between S. Arabia and Egypt? - Zvi Mazel

There seems to be a growing rift between S. Arabia &

Egypt. At a Sec. Coun. Meeting on Syria, Egypt voted w/ Russia to defeat a proposal calling for a stop to bombing on Aleppo, and voted for a Russian counter-proposal opposed by the West. The Saudi rep. condemned the votes. Egypt believes Syrian unity must be preserved, and aligned itself w/ Russia. Saudi Arabia steadfastly supports Sunni rebel groups fighting to eliminate Assad and set up a Sunni regime. (*JPost*)

Egypt vs. Islamic State (*Reuters*)

The Egyptian military launched airstrikes targeting terrorists in N. Sinai in retaliation for a terrorist attack. A large number of terrorists were said to have been killed, along w/ the destruction of vehicles and storage areas for weapons and ammunition.

Some New From Last Week + Tech

Few Military Threats Facing Israel (*JPost*)

At the onset of 5777, there is no conventional or existential military threat against the State of Israel. Today, there is peace w/ Egypt, and no Syrian military to speak of. The Iran nuclear deal has stopped Iran's nuclear program. Israel is vulnerable to attacks from terrorist elements. Recently Israel has seen terrorist elements fleeing N. Syria and moving to the south, where they could shift their focus to Israel. In Lebanon, Hizbullah's 130K rockets and missiles represent Israel's primary threat.

China, Israeli High-Tech (*Asia Times-Hong Kong*)

Over the past 4 years, Chinese investors have invested \$15+ billion in Israeli companies. Bilateral trade has increased from \$1 M. in 1992 to \$11.4 B. in 2015.

Why They Use Israel for R&D (*Bus. Insider*)

Google, Facebook, Microsoft, and Intel are among 300+ cos. to open R&D facilities in Israel. Google: "There is no other country on Earth that thinks the same way that we [Google] do It's about innovation, creativity, taking tremendous risks." Google employs 600+ engineers in Israel who work on Google's core products: Search, Maps, and Live Results. Intel employs 11K workers.

Powerhouse in Auto Tech (*Ha'aretz*)

New technology is making the automotive industry smarter and more efficient, and increasingly reliant on software. There has been virtually an airlift of automotive execs who have visited Israel in recent months to meet w/ local companies in the field.

Israel Upgrades Security Barrier (*JPost*)

Pal. workers cut holes in the security fence daily. Tens of thousands of Pals legally cross into Israel for work; thousands more seek to enter illegally. The army has begun construction at new points along the infiltration route, laying down twenty large concrete slabs a day.

Israeli Decoys (*Defense News*)

Project Hyena infuses foldable, lightweight platforms w/ the signatures of actual tanks and other armored vehicles to deceive the enemy. The company founder: "We create targets that are almost impossible to distinguish from the real thing."

US Army Gunners Use Israeli Tech (*PR Newswire*)

Elbit Systems/America signed a \$7.3 M. contract to supply the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Gunner's Hand Station to the US Army. The Station provides vehicle gunners the ability to acquire their target and fire accurately. The device can work in collaboration w/ the Commander's Hand Station, also supplied by Elbit.

Jordan Defends Deal w/ Israel (*AFP-Al Arabiya*)

Jordan defended its deal to buy Israeli natural gas. The deal would cut \$600 M./yr. from the state's energy bill.

eBay Buys Corrigan for \$30M (*Israel Hayom*)

eBay has finalized the acquisition of Israeli visual search technologies developer Corrigan for \$30 million. The technology helps buyers find the best results when shopping on eBay.

GDP Growth Sharply Higher (*Ha'aretz*)

Israel's economic growth (GDP) expanded at a 4.3% annualized rate in the 2nd Q. of 2016, raising the growth rate for the first half of the year to 3.2%. Exports rose at a revised rate of 10.4% in the 2nd Q., 8.8% in the first.

Distinguishes Bacterial, Viral Infections (*Israel21c*)

ImmunoXpert is used by hospitals in the EU, Switzerland and Israel to determine rapidly whether an infection is bacterial or viral. To be on the safe side, many docs prescribe antibiotics. Up to 50% of antibiotic drug regimens are redundant or inappropriate. And antibiotic overuse is a major trigger for drug-resistant strains estimated to kill 50K people per year in Europe and the US. ImmunoXpert interprets chemical signals from the body's own immune system to distinguish w/ 90+% accuracy between bacterial and viral infections. Its biosensors and algorithms decode the immune system's distinct responses to bacterial and viral infections

Solving World's Plastic Problem (*Ha'aretz*)

Only 14% of the 311 M. tons of plastic produced every year is recycled; the rest festers in our environment. A research team at Ben-Gurion U. has developed genetically engineered, plastic-eating bacteria to target the most common thermoplastic polymer resin used in bottles and food containers.