News and digest on Israel and Middle East affairs compiled by FOR ZION'S SAKE MINISTRIES.

Latest from Operation Protective Edge

Headlines

1. Breaking Ceasefire, Hamas Abducts Soldier, Kills Two Others
2. Netanyahu to Kerry: Hamas bears responsibility for consequences of its actions
3. 'Israel has ample evidence that Hamas is using UNRWA schools for terrorist purposes'
4. Hamas terrorists trained in Malaysia for parachute attack
5. Lapid: Hamas is Holding Gazan Civilians Hostage
6. US seeks Qatari, Turkish help to free reportedly abducted IDF soldier
7. Israel's US Ambassador Smashes Biased Coverage on CNN
8. Jerusalem: Arabs Attack Woman for Attempting to Remove PLO Flag

Scripture of the Week: Bennett on Al Jazeera
He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
( Ps 91:4-5 )

1. **Breaking Ceasefire, Hamas Abducts Soldier, Kills Two Others**
The IDF released for publication the name of the soldier feared abducted by terrorists in Gaza. The missing soldier has been named as Second Lieutenant (Platoon Leader) Hadar Goldin, 23, from Kfar Saba. Goldin serves in the Givati Brigade. The IDF Spokesperson's office announced Friday that at about 9:30 am, terrorists opened fire on Israeli forces in southern Gaza, triggering a fierce exchange of fire, and preliminary information indicates that there is a concern that a soldier was kidnapped during the fighting. Two other ...
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2. **Netanyahu to Kerry: Hamas bears responsibility for consequences of its actions**
Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told US Secretary of State John Kerry Friday afternoon that Israel would take “all necessary measures” against those calling for its destruction and using terror against its citizens. Netanyahu’s conversation with Kerry came just hours after two IDF soldiers were killed, and one feared abducted, during an attack that took place an hour after the US and UN brokered cease-fire went into effect. Netanyahu said that the terrorist organizations in Gaza would bear...
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3. **'Israel has ample evidence that Hamas is using UNRWA schools for terrorist purposes'**
Israel has ample evidence that Hamas is using UNRWA schools and facilities for terrorist purposes, Deputy Foreign Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said Wednesday. Speaking at a press briefing in Jerusalem, he pointed out that on three separate occasions UNRWA itself has admitted that rockets were hidden in the basement of their facilities. “Who knows how many were not found,” he said, adding that this phenomenon was "totally unacceptable." Each time that the rockets were found, he said, they were given back to...
[More]
4. **Hamas terrorists trained in Malaysia for parachute attack, Shin Bet says**

Members of a highly trained Hamas terror cell trained to carry out a cross-border attack, using a powered parachute, in Malaysia, the questioning of Hamas suspects has revealed. On July 21, the IDF arrested a Hamas cell commander in Khan Younis, Gaza, who was a part of the Hamas regional battalion. During questioning by the Shin Bet [Israel Security Agency], the suspect said he had trained in powered parachute attacks, as well as training in how to kidnap a soldier. The training was part of Hamas's... [More]

5. **Lapid: Hamas is Holding Gazan Civilians Hostage**

In an interview with Bloomberg TV on Tuesday Finance Minister Yair Lapid said that Hamas is holding the citizens of Gaza "hostage", and that Israel demands nothing less than a demilitarization of the Gaza Strip to force an end to attacks on Israeli civilians. "No other country on earth" would tolerate thousands of rockets being fired indiscriminately on its civilian population, said the Yesh Atid party leader, who went on to point out that despite that Israel had accepted three separate ceasefire proposals - all of ... [More]

6. **US seeks Qatari, Turkish help to free reportedly abducted IDF soldier over Gaza**

RAMSTEIN, Germany - Fearing an escalation of violence in Gaza, US Secretary of State John Kerry called on Turkey and Qatar on Friday to use their influence to secure the release of an Israeli soldier who was feared kidnapped by Hamas terrorists in Gaza. The IDF named 2nd.-Lt. Hadar Goldin, a 23-year-old, a Givati officer from Kfar Saba, as the IDF soldier presumed to be abducted by Hamas. Kerry called Qatari Foreign Minister Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attiyah and Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu soon... [More]

7. **Israel's US Ambassador Smashes Biased Coverage on CNN**

In one of the best performances by an Israeli spokesman since the start of Operation Protective Edge, Israel's US ambassador, Ron Dermer, turned the tables on a CNN anchor who tried to corner him over the deaths of children in a Gaza school that was bombed. "What happened here is horrific," said anchor Erin Burnett, "and we don't yet even know the scale of how many children may have died. Initial reports indicate that at least sixteen are dead and the initial report said that this attack had come from Israeli... [More]
8. Jerusalem: Arabs Attack Woman for Attempting to Remove PLO Flag

A Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO - the terror group behind the Palestinian Authority) flag was spotted hanging from a utility pole near the Lion's Gate last week, a Jerusalem resident reports - and the municipality refused to take it down until it caused someone to get hurt. "I called the police and the dispatcher told me it was illegal," a woman, who wishes to remain anonymous, told Arutz Sheva Friday. "I turned to the municipality where I was told they are afraid of a 'pogrom... [More]

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Bradley Antolovich,
International Director

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