

Israel News Desk

with BPF Secretary
Steve Lloyd

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Zech 2:8 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.

We are certainly living in a time of confusion, especially where BREXIT is concerned. Confusion is not of God, but of the devil and he is doing all he can at this time to stir the up world. At the United Nations, or perhaps it should be called the Dis-united Nations, instead of targeting the things that really need the world to unite on - World problems!, they once again target Israel.

Recently the UN General Assembly has approved six, yes six! anti-Israel resolutions, including two that reject Jewish ties to the Temple Mount and Jerusalem. You couldn't make this up!

The motion on Jerusalem, which refers to the Temple Mount only by its Arab name and states under Israeli administration there is a lack of religious freedom, was passed by 148 - 11 votes with 14 abstentions.

It is true, there is a lack of religious freedom, but it is against the Jewish people who are not allowed to worship or pray on the Temple Mount.

Other resolutions dealt with "the Syrian Golan", "Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat" and "Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine". They passed by equally wide margins.

Israel's deputy representative, Noa Furman, said: "We live in a time of many crises raging around the world. It is a shame that rather than addressing these crises, the UN passes so many biased resolutions"

When US Ambassador to the UN, Nicky Hayley, tried to get the UN to recognise Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation in a recent vote, guess what? That was defeated.

Meanwhile in Israel the IDF have been busy discovering tunnels that infiltrate into Israel's Galilee region from Lebanon.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said " they planned to capture parts of Galilee"

This tunnel has now been destroyed. Mr Netanyahu went on to say about the tunnels "They have been built with direct support and funding from Iran."

Russia has expressed reserved support for Israel's efforts to neutralise the tunnels from Lebanon but said it hoped these efforts would not conflict with UN Security Resolution 1701. It was this resolution that in 2006 put an end to the Second Lebanon War and called for the Blue line to be respected.

DUBAI - A small community of Jews has opened Dubai's first synagogue. It has happened amid a tolerance campaign that has eased restrictions on minority religions in the United Arab Emirates.

IRAN - Iran's president Hassan Rouhani has said that Israel was a cancerous growth in the Middle East. This came in a speech filled with inflammatory rhetoric that Rouhani delivered in Tehran against both America and Israel.

This speech was condemned not only by PM Netanyahu, who called for sanctions by the international community, but also Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz who tweeted that it was unacceptable for Iran to call into question Israel's right to exist or call for the country's destruction.

CHAD - During a recent visit to Israel, Chad president Idriss Deby met twice with PM Netanyahu to discuss "common threats" and the war against terrorism. Chad is on the frontline in Africa in the battle against radical Islamic terrorism, be it in the form of Boko Haram or Al-Qaeda.

They also discussed co-operation in the fields of agriculture, border protection, technology, solar energy, water and health.

It is hoped this will soon lead to the formal announcement of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

ANTI-SEMITISM - Anti-Semitism has not changed in the UK according to London's Mayor, Sadiq Khan, one of the speakers at the London Jewish community centre, holding a vigil for the 11 Jews killed in Pittsburgh USA. This was backed by Home Secretary Sajid Javid who 'reassured' the audience that despite the Pittsburgh attack, the threat level for UK Jews had not changed. The BBC has even highlighted it in the 'Eastenders' programme. But in other countries it has. In France it was up by 69% in the first 9 months of 2018. In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel told a Kristallnacht memorial ceremony in a Berlin synagogue that violence against Jews was still rising - eight decades after the Holocaust. Ireland's Senate has advanced a bill that outlaws the sale of Israeli settlement goods in the country. Meanwhile Hungary has earmarked £2.66 million for combating antisemitism in Europe.

BRAZIL - Since President Trump moved the US embassy to Jerusalem, there have been a number of other countries that have pledged to follow suit. The latest being Brazil. New Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said in his announcement "Israel is a sovereign state and we shall duly respect that. As previously stated during our campaign, we intend to transfer the Brazilian embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem".

AUSTRALIA - Australia has recognised that West Jerusalem is the capital of Israel but will not be moving its embassy.

Lastly, some quick facts:

October was the best-ever month for Israel's tourism industry. Around 468,000 visitors came, a 14% increase on last October. So far in 2018, a total of 3.4 million visitors stayed for an average of 8 days.

In the last year, 480 terrorist attacks were thwarted by the Shin Bet security agency.

Israel is getting overcrowded. By the year 2065 Israel's population will number 20 million and the country is on track to become the most crowded in the developed world according to a study by the Shores Institution.

Pray for the IDF and IAF as they defend the borders and continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Every blessing and a Happy New Year, Maranatha.
Steve