

Israel News Desk

With BPF Secretary Steve Lloyd
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Zech 2:8b for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye

Our God does not change, He is the same – Yesterday, Today and Forever!

Israel is going through a sad time at home.

Firstly we heard that Nechama Rivlin, Israel's First Lady died the day before her 74th birthday and has been buried at Jerusalem's Herzl cemetery in the closest to a state funeral as an ordinary citizen can get.

Then we hear that the PM's wife Sara Netanyahu has been convicted for the misuse of public funds and to make matters worse, Benjamin Netanyahu has been unable to form a government following the recent elections and so the Israeli Parliament voted to dissolve itself, sending the country to an unprecedented second snap election this year. Another election will take place in September.

Israel desperately needs our prayers, just because they are Gods chosen people does not make them immune from the problems that other countries have....yet despite all this, Gods hand is still upon them and they continue to be a blessing to the world.

In a new report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Israel has close to 100 nuclear weapons. Whilst Israel has a long-standing policy of not commenting on its nuclear arsenal, according to the report there are approximately 30 that are gravity bombs, which can be delivered by fighter jets – some of which are believed to be equipped for nuclear weapon delivery. It also stated that Israel has 50 warheads that can be delivered by land based ballistic missile, which is believed to have a range of 5,500 km.

There are also unconfirmed reports that Israel has modified its fleet of Dolphin class submarines to carry nuclear armed sea-launched Cruise missiles, giving it a sea based second-strike capability.

From the way the report has been worded, i.e. approximately, believed to be etc, sounds like they are guessing and still do not really know!

Another report emerged in May of how an Israeli air strike may have literally saved the world.

The report states that the attack was in 2007 and Israeli jets with American help secretly bombed a nukes site in the Syrian desert...before ISIS terrorists occupied it. The remote nuclear facility called Deires-Zoir had been built for the Syrians with North Korean help, had the plant not been destroyed by Israel the world may well have been dealing with a nuclear-armed ISIS and the world would have been a much more dangerous place.

The Syrian dictator Basher al-Assad had picked an obscure part of the desert to set up a bold and illegal project. Israeli doctrine was to never again accept the risk of a holocaust in which millions of Jews could die.

In other news in Israel, Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv is set to expand to cope with growing demand. A 3 Billion Shekel (£650m) plan has been approved to expand Terminal 3 by 80,000 sq metres to include 90 new check in desks and allow passenger traffic over the next five years to rise from 23 million to 30 million.

USA - The Trump administration has challenged the United Nations' claim that Israel must withdraw to the pre1967 lines, in an opinion piece two of its top officials published in the Wall Street Journal.

American Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman argued that the historic Security Council Resolution 242 – which the international community often cites as the basis of its claim that Israel is required to relinquish territory it acquired during the June 1967 Six-Day War – bolsters the international legitimacy of the Trump

administration's decision to recognise Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in 1967.

Their argument, however, could also be applicable to the West Bank, which Israel captured from Jordan in 1967. Speculation is high that the Trump peace plan, expected this month, would allow Israel to retain control of all the settlements located in Area C of the West Bank.

Pompeo and Friedman wrote that "President Trump's Golan proclamation (in March) is entirely consistent with Resolution 242".

Poland/Ukraine - Two ancient former synagogues have been destroyed in Poland and Ukraine. The 16th Century former Shul of Pidhaltsy, in Ukraine's west, collapsed as a result of heavy rains and neglect that eroded one of its supporting pillars.

In Poland, contractors demolished the century-old former synagogue of Nowy Targ. It had not been registered as an architectural monument.

UK – The Cambridge Union invited Malaysia’s Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to address students on Sunday 8th June 2019. Mohamad is a holocaust denier and antisemitic, something which he is proud of. Earlier this year he addressed the Oxford Union where he was unrepentant of his remarks that Jews were “hook-nosed” with “an instinctive sense of money”. He said “we are free to say what we like, we can say something that can be regarded as antisemitic by the Jews”.

Mohamad also stated that free speech gave him the right to speak “against the Jews”.

Earlier this year The International Paralympic Committee stripped Malaysia of the right to host the 2019 World Para Swimming Championships because the Muslim-majority country had banned Israeli athletes.

Despite protests about his visit the Cambridge Union refused to budge.

A spokesman for the Union said “At the Union, we pride ourselves on defending free speech and allowing our members to hear from – and to hold to account – the people who shape our world. We are sure that this event will contribute further to this great tradition”.

It is a shame that this only works one way, as some universities have banned pro-Israel speakers and branding them racist.

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

Every blessing, Maranatha.

Steve