

Israel News Desk

With David Hoyle
August 2013

Israel is always longing for peace; even its national greeting used every day is "*Shalom*" – Peace. Whilst we know from scripture that the only true peace for the Jewish people will only come when their Messiah returns (of course they believe it is His 1st coming, we believe it is His 2nd) we nevertheless pray as commanded in the word of God for the peace of Jerusalem. Psalm 122v6. One cannot but hope that a measure of peace would come from the current peace talks which commenced in Washington last week & are due to continue in the Middle East this week but the experience of pulling out of Gaza & the resulting problems only indicate that peace with the Palestinians will not emerge as they continue to seek the destruction of a Jewish state. Mr Abbas, the Palestinian President insists no Jew would be allowed to live in a future Palestinian state & insists also that all those who became refugees in 1948 must be allowed to return with their children & grandchildren! The Palestinians have also produced a map with only Palestine, covering the whole of Israel & Gaza... & no mention of Israel. The worse case scenario for the peace talk's main broker Mr Obama would be that the talks collapse, the Palestinians would apply to the UN for full recognition & membership & he would have to choose between Israel & the Palestinians. If he followed his Muslim instincts & came down against Israel he would ensure the democrats lost both the Jewish & conservative evangelical votes. Perhaps in a move just a few days before the talks commenced, by sanctioning the building of 1200 new units in existing settlements in the West Bank of Jerusalem Mr Netanyahu has ensured the talks will fail – even if they start, although the Palestinians dare hardly pull back or they will get the blame for failure. Or would they? Israel gets the blame for all the problems of the world, let alone their local ones! At the end of the day the promised referendum would certainly not support the division of Jerusalem, return of refugees and probably not the evacuation of the West Bank (Judea and Samaria). The biggest problem for Israel is that unless there is some adjustment of boundaries the number of Arabs opposed to Jewish people in the state will produce a demographic problem in due course. In essence, only the Lord's return to fulfil all His purposes will bring the solution. "*Maranatha, even so come Lord Jesus*". 1 Corinthians 16v22 & Revelation 22v20.

European Boycott The Europeans continue their attempts at a wide spread boycott of Israel's academic & educational institutions. They have now issued guidelines on funding for institutions that operate in East Jerusalem & the West Bank. Catherine Ashton, the British head of Foreign Affairs in the EU community says this will only marginally affect Israeli institutions but she is only seeking to justify an anti Israel boycott. Israel's deputy Prime Minister Moshe Ya'alon has responded by stopping EU projects in the same area. Israel's main worry is that this EU move could result in sanctions against Israel.

Sainsburys Praise God that Sainsburys supermarkets have rejected anti Israel activists' call for the company to ban Israeli goods from being sold on its premises, their chairman David Tyler told the firms AGM that no boycott of Israel would be considered.

Universal Jurisdiction There are fears that Israeli visitors to the UK could be arrested under these laws. This has been a concern on more than one occasion. Recently the IDF Chief of Staff Benny Gantz's trip to London had to be given "*special mission*" status to deflect opposition from anti Israeli groups. Israel did not publicise the trip so how did these activists find out? Was it through their supporters in our Foreign Office?

The British government changed the law to require the Director of Public Prosecutions to sanction any arrest warrant requested. An Israeli diplomat said "*No one is convinced by this*". Previously anyone could apply for an arrest warrant. Mr Hague said temporary immunity could be granted as in this case. Mr Hague is unquestionably no friend of Israel as his record shows. In point of fact immunity from arrest only applies to Israeli visitors when sanctioned in advance and only if they are on official government business. It's only a matter of time before someone is arrested & the furore that would follow.

The Methodist Church too is currently investigating "*arguments for & against a boycott of Israel*". Jewish leaders cut off all ties with the Methodist hierarchy in 2010 when its conference adopted a policy highly critical of Israel.

Syria An Israeli submarine attacked a weapons cache in the Syrian port of Latakia. The cache contained P-800 anti ship missiles. The Russian missiles had arrived earlier this year. It is reported that the attack was coordinated with Washington.

Muslim Brotherhood Six members of the Muslim Brotherhood have escaped from Egypt to Hamas territory & set up a military command at the Gaza Beach Hotel. It is reported that they are running their movement's uprising against the military in Egypt from there. It is further reported that the Egyptian army are planning a raid to bring the men back to Egypt for trial.

Hezbollah EU governments have voted to black list the "military wing" of Hezbollah. This conveniently assumes that there is a distinction between the "military" and the "political". A typical EU fudge of an issue.

Fearful of antagonising Hezbollah and that they might have sleeper cells that they could activate to carry out attacks in Europe they equivocate rather than take a principled decision. Black listing all Hezbollah would have deprived "*Party of Allah*" of sources of fund raising by enabling the freezing of all its bank accounts and assets.

The decision to list only a part of Hezbollah as a terrorist group comes 5 months after the Bulgarian government said they were behind the bus bombing in Bourgas that killed 5 Israelis and their driver. In Cyprus a Hezbollah operative was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for plotting to kill Israelis there.

In Spain, after 6 Spanish peace keepers were killed in a Hezbollah bomb attack in Southern Lebanon, the Spanish government met in secret with Hezbollah militants to provide "escorts" to protect Spanish UNIFIL patrols. In return Spanish troops would look the other way while Hezbollah was allowed to rearm for its next war on Israel.

Poverty in Israel Many Israelis live without food, clothing or a roof over their heads 35.6% of all Israeli children live below the poverty line. Every week food clothing and household items are delivered by various organisations, many are Christian.

Golan Heights The recent decision to boycott funding to institutions with Israeli connections in the West Bank and East Jerusalem has included the Golan Heights. The Golan Heights have not been mentioned in previous talk of boycotts but are now being brought into the equation. Israel in any event announced their connection many years ago.

Emirates Airlines London Transport has agreed to remove an anti-Israeli clause in a sponsorship deal with Emirates Airlines for the cable car project linking the north and south banks of the River Thames. The Zionist Federation chairman Paul Charney said he was pleased at the decision.

Germany Berlin's hotel and restaurant association has warned its members not to book a room for holocaust denier David Irving. He was due to speak in Berlin. The Green Party's Volker Beck urged hoteliers "*not to fall for the right-wing extremist trap*"

Jack Straw The Jewish Telegraph asks, "*Is he a fool & a knave*"? He boasted on Radio 4 at preventing an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities & said he is now working to rehabilitate the Mullahs & is vocal in his support for Iran's newly-elected "*moderate*" President Rouhani. Mr Rouhani has demonstrated it is "*business as usual*" & described Israel as "an open wound that needs to be removed".

The columnist Peter Hitchens defines:

Misconceptions People Have About Israel

1. There were no Jews in Israel before 1948 (unless you go back to the Bible)
2. Israel replaced a country called 'Palestine'
3. The West Bank before 1967 was a Palestinian state
4. No Jews lived in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) before 1967
5. International support for a Jewish homeland was a result of the Holocaust

Much of the criticism of Israel is based on these 5 myths!

shot down a rocket aimed at its southern resort city of

13th August, blowing it up in mid air near the border with Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

Islamist militants operating in the lawless desert peninsula said they fired the rocket at the city, which was packed with tourists, in retaliation for the killing of four guerrillas in Sinai.

Air raid sirens rang out and blasts reverberated over the hills surrounding the resort on the shores of the Gulf of Aqaba, witnesses and Israeli news media said. No casualties or damage were reported.

A retired Israeli security official said it was the first time Israel's Iron Dome interceptor system had struck a missile fired at Eilat.

Don't hear about this on the BBC!

Keep praying for Israel & the Jewish people as God works out His purposes & if you move fast you might still join our Israel tour in October. This is your last chance to join us. Telephone: 01423 881803 David Hoyle for a brochure.