

Israel News Desk

With David Hoyle

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Let's for once start with the good news! Daniel Shayesteh, who helped overthrow the Shah of Iran in 1979 and was a leader in Ayatollah Khomeini's regime and a co-founder of Hezbollah, has trusted in the Lord and been totally transformed. He was a member of the militant Free Islamic Revolutionary movement at University and rose to prominence in the Ayatollah's regime before co-founding Hezbollah.

After fleeing to Turkey following his discovery of the truth relating to the Iranian regime he visited a church and began to read the New Testament. After the Lord opened his eyes he was totally changed and he lost his hatred of Jews and Christians, his wife too has been converted. He states that he was very much affected by God's love for all people. He was impressed that God is a relational God and by the words of a preacher who said "Come out from your father's house – live in Jesus house of absolute joy, freedom and peace." His remarkable story is found in the Good News paper www.goodnews-paper.org.uk. He is one of thousands of Iranians who have trusted in the Lord, some through miraculous divine intervention and revelation and is one more former Muslim who now has a love for the Jewish people. Praise God!

Arab Spring (so called)

As **Syria** continues to fall apart with mass destruction of buildings and thousands killed (at the time of writing estimated at 93 000) the rebels are beginning to lose ground and the hypocritical West loses interest in a peace treaty because Mr Assad is gaining ground, Israel is becoming increasingly concerned.

Whilst the Assad regime were losing ground the western powers thought he would come to negotiations as he was under pressure, but now things have changed there is a move to arm the rebels, many of whom are Al Qaeda and foreign fighters. With Russia arming the Assad regime, Hezbollah fighting alongside them and Iranian and Chinese support, the future is fraught with danger. Mrs Merkel has expressed the fear that this could become America verses Russia, with many other nations involved. Our own government have learnt nothing and Mr Hague is pushing for the rebels to be armed.

Golan Heights – the rebels recently seized the Quneitra border crossing from Syria to Israel but have now been driven out by Mr Assad's army but their suspicion that Hezbollah are now only a short distance from Israel's border. Mr Assad kept the border quiet for a long time but says there is now a demand to open a second front there. This area is the biblical land of Bashan given to Israel by God, who as in all things has the last word.

Lebanon As Hezbollah cross from Lebanon to help Mr Assad, the rebels have crossed into Lebanon and the Syrian war is now spilling over there.

Egypt Isaiah 19 says 'I will set Egyptian against Egyptian'. This is now being fulfilled on a day to day basis and even as I write there is news of serious disturbances with thousands protesting the new government.

Overall the situation in the Middle East looks bad for Israel on a human level but thank God He is in control and what is happening is directly in line with what the Old Testament prophets predicted. Regular study of Psalm 83, Ezekiel 36 to 39 and many other scriptures is constantly revealing the accuracy of Bible prophecy.

Anti Semitism is becoming fashionable again', said Mr Netanyahu at a Jerusalem conference, 'It is', he said, 'Socially acceptable after it took a respite after the holocaust'. He went on, 'Anti Israel and anti Zionism are inseparable from anti Semitism'. He further went on, 'It is trendy today to say 'I don't hate Jews, I just don't think they should have a state.'

He told the conference, *'De-legitimation of the state of Israel is always a prerequisite for physical attacks. Before the holocaust'*, he said, *'There was a period of dehumanisation and it is the same today'*, referring to the Iranian regime. Naftali Bennett, Diaspora Affairs Minister said, *'Israel is the only pillar of democracy in an ocean of radical Islam that is out to wipe out the world'*.

The GMB Union has banned its members visiting Israel! The Fair Play Campaign group told the Jewish Telegraph, *'It was a cowardly move they are scared of letting their members see the other side of the debate'*.

The Co-op voted to continue their boycott of 4 Israeli agricultural companies in Judea and Samaria. The motion they passed was put forward by a delegate with links to the Socialist Workers Party. The Chairman of Trade Union Friends of Israel Roger Lyons said, *'They want Israel to be abolished and Hamas to win'*! The Lib Dem MP for Bradford who made very offensive remarks about Israel has still not been disciplined but then the Lib Dems have *'form'* as far as anti Israel sentiment is concerned. As I have said many times anti Israel is little more than sanitised anti Semitism.

France The town of Belfort in Eastern France has named a public square after Yasser Arafat to pay homage to his signing the Oslo Accords. A Jewish leader there said, *'It's the symbol of a murderer'*.

Shots were fired at the entrance to a Jewish Community Centre near Paris. The Jewish community in Garges les Gonesse were advised not to regard it as an anti Semitic incident!

Earthquake Israel is on the major Syrian/African fault line and there was a 4.9 on the Richter Scale earthquake felt in Eilat. Its epicentre was in Sinai and the quake was felt in Cairo.

Russia There is still doubt as to whether Russia will deliver the S-300 missile system to Syria. Israel is concerned that it will enable planes over Israel to be shot down. It is thought this delivery threat by Russia is in reply to Britain, France and America threatening to send arms to the rebels. Breaking news...As I write America has offered to arm the rebels.

Canada Stephen Harper, Canada's Prime Minister, said last week that there is nothing more short sighted than the Western Capital's softening of support for Israel around the globe. He also said that Israel is the one stable democratic ally that the West can count on in the Middle East.

UNESCO A UNESCO delegation has been refused visas to visit Israel. *'Let them first remove the anti Semitic resolutions they passed and in return we will admit them'*, said an official.

Nazi flag The residents of an Arab town near Hebron have hung a Nazi flag next to the mosque. A nearby Jewish settler said, *'They no longer hide their murderous intentions, announcing out loud they want to annihilate us'*.

Mien Kampf is one of the 10 best sellers in the Palestinian territories.

Rockets continue to fall in southern Israel from Gaza at regular intervals. One in particular fell on a kindergarten in Sderot; by the grace of God no children were present at the time.

Water Israel had a very good rainfall during the former and latter rains. The Sea of Galilee has risen to the point where the sluice gates were able to be opened to allow water to flow into the River Jordan replenishing it to help supply both Israel and Jordan. 1000 cubic metres of water per hour will result in 30 million cubic metres flowing into the river starting in June. This is to restore the river level which has dwindled causing pollution.

Stephen Sizer The Jewish Board of Deputies' complaint has moved through the initial stages of the Church's procedure.

A Board of Conciliation has been convened including one person from the Jewish Community and one person from the C of E. The Board of Deputies stands by its view that the matters complained of amount to conduct by Rev Sizer unbecoming or inappropriate to a minister of the C of E. Those who have read some of his writings and seen reports of his messages might have put it much more strongly. Anti Semitism might be more appropriate!

