

Israel News Desk

With
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The Middle East peace talks have now come to an end although some would say they are only at a standstill but are in deep crisis. Amid threats and counter threats negotiators tried in vain to find common ground. The Palestinians have now applied to join a long list of international organisations and conventions which change little to the situation on the ground. However, a game changer will be if they apply to join the International Criminal Court which could precipitate a legal challenge to Israel's control of the West Bank (Judea and Samaria). Mr Abbas is currently occupied with trying to implement the Fatah-Hamas unity deal signed last week.

Mr Kerry caused outrage in Israel when he appeared to blame Israel for the breakdown in talks and by saying Israel risked becoming an "apartheid state" if the two state solution is not reached. America however is "laying low" and swiftly retracted the remark as it does not want more problems when it is tending to the escalating conflict in the Ukraine. Additionally, talks with Iran are at a crucial stage and these also impact heavily on Israel, who want tough action to stop Iran's race for a nuclear bomb.

Mr Netanyahu's position on the overall situation is that the Palestinians have chosen to go it alone and that ends the peace talks. He also condemns the link up of Fatah with Hamas as Mr Abbas forming an alliance with a Holocaust denying terrorist organisation who want to kill more Jews. The failure of the peace negotiations means that the Israeli Government Coalition will be saved as any pull out from the West Bank would mean the Settler Party pulling out and bringing a probable election. Mr Netanyahu can now concentrate on the big problem of Iran.

Shimon Peres has made a controversial speech saying that his own discussions with Mr Abbas brought an agreement which was vetoed by Mr Netanyahu. Israel's Presidents do not have the authority to hold such discussions and the result is that Mr Netanyahu is seeking to cancel the Presidential elections and vest any powers of the President in the Prime Minister.

Overall we can say there will be no peace until the Prince of Peace returns, the Jewish Messiah, and in the meantime there will ultimately be a false peace in the tribulation period. We should always be focused on the fact that God is working out His end time purposes and be sure to focus our prayers on His will. The concrete certain "Road Map" is found in God's word. I fear that many well intentioned Christians are not praying within God's will but rather what they think should happen. All the above indicates that our Lord's return for His Church is imminent.

France 40% of all racist crime in France in 2013 was directed at Jews even though they make up only 1% of the population. In 2013 there were more anti-Semitic incidents in France than any country in the world. A dentist in Paris said "we no longer have a place in France." This July having lived all his life in France he will move to Israel with his wife and 5 children. He went on "there is an atmosphere of anti-Semitism on the streets. My daughter was attacked on a tramway, so was my son. They made anti-Semitic comments and pushed them around". His son had to stop wearing his Kippur (headdress) and he himself has done the same. The dentist went on to say that people use anti-Zionism as a mask for anti-Semitism. There is an obsession with Jews in France he said. It is worthy of note that when Ariel Sharon visited France a year before his death he advised Jews to leave France, much to the anger of the French government. It was bad then – it's worse now! Let's face it, in our own country people are sanitising their anti-Semitism as anti-Israel.

Europe The President of the European Jewish Congress states "Jewish life in Europe is unsustainable, we live in fear and insecurity. Jews do not feel safe in Europe." Robert Wistrich at the Hebrew University, a world expert on anti-Semitism said, "Jews in Europe do not have a future, their future is bleak."

The Union of Islamic Organisations holding its annual meeting in Paris issued a statement that "all the misery in the world originates from the Jews and Zionist barbarism"!! They said the Zionist hand is at work in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Rwanda and the Central African Republic causing Islam to be attacked!

Germany A Jewish leader has called for public condemnation of an anti Semitic attack in Berlin. A young Israeli living there was surrounded and beaten outside his apartment by 6 men who identified themselves as Palestinians. The attack took place in broad daylight and when he was with a female companion.

Ukraine Jews are being threatened from both sides of the conflict but Mr Putin has disowned the threats from pro Russian activity and said that Jews are welcome in Russia. The Jewish Major of Ukraine's second largest city was injured by gunshot wounds and has been flown to Israel for treatment. He is in a serious condition. Synagogues have been torched and there has been several antiseptic incidents.

Russia Over 1000, mostly young, Russian Jews attended a Limmud conference in Moscow to attend 160 sessions highlighting Jewish culture, business and history. Some also flew in from Australia and America.

Syria Many Syrians are now seeking aid from Israel! Israel is regarded as one of the few nations who want the fighting to end as world powers and Muslim groups use the country as a kind of chessboard. Dissidents have asked Israel to use their influence with America Europe and Russia to spur action by the International community. They would like Israel to supply weapons to the rebels and enforce a no fly zone!

Jonathan Pollard Efforts to obtain his release from prison in America continue. There was a suggestion he might be released if Israel released 100's of Palestinian prisoners. Jonathan himself was reported to be "*vehemently opposed*" to this plan. His wife states he is in poor health and cannot last much longer. Jonathan was arrested in 1985 and later sentenced to life imprisonment. He is currently confined in a federal prison in North Carolina. His treatment by America can only be described as inhuman.

Iran – Saudi Arabia who for 3 years backed opposing sides in Syria, are seeking to reduce the violence. Israel commented that a Syria controlled by Assad's patrons, Iran and Hezbollah could threaten Israel.

Anti Defamation League The League states that 25% of the world is now anti Semitic. In Laos only 0.2% of the population are anti Semitic, in Gaza 93%.

Nigeria Good Luck Jonathan has accepted an offer from Israel of help to find the kidnapped girls.

Egypt An Egyptian journalist has suggested that Egypt should sue Israel for damages caused by the 10 Biblical plagues. As one Daily Mail writer often says "*you couldn't make it up*"!

Snow in Israel A late storm saw 10 inches fall on Mount Hermon and 6 inches at low level! After 3 dry winter months rain has been pouring down. Some areas accumulated 4 inches of water. A definite answer to prayer. Visitors are flocking to the desert to see the wonderful carpets of flowers, daisies, Poppies and red anemones to name but a few.

Keep praying for Israel and for a movement of God to bring Jewish people to Yeshua in these last days.