

# Newsbytes

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

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**These first 2 articles are a must read. None of this made the news, but this takes things up a notch over there, essentially another step in the war to eradicate Israel and make the Jews the minority in their own land. This latest scheme will not be ending anytime soon, according to organizers. The new normal of sorts. MD**

## Hamas Hoodwinks Everyone, including Israel’s Military, with a Double Game

Mar 29, 2018 DEBKA Weekly



Ever since early February, the Palestinian Hamas terrorist organization that rules the Gaza Strip was widely described by most experts as a declining force – riven by internal disputes between its political and armed wings, losing popular credibility over the economic and humanitarian disasters gripping the enclave – in short, clinging by its toenails to the edge of a cliff. Then, all of a sudden, in the last week of March, the truth came out. Hamas had been working its propaganda machine to generate a false picture of woe and misery and hoodwinked all the parties involved in Gaza’s problems, while cooking up a big scheme.

Even Egyptian President Abdel-Fatteh El-Sisi, who has worked tirelessly to unify the Palestinian movement by patching up the Hamas feud with the rival Fatah party and its leader, Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), fell for the ruse. So did Abu Mazen who, at 83, found himself and the PA upstaged as corrupt losers, who no longer spoke for the Palestinian people.

And so, too, did the top brass of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF); they were too busy developing two major security projects: finding and destroying the Hamas terror tunnels snaking from Gaza under the border into Israel; and constructing the deeply-sunk steel and concrete barrier around the perimeter of the enclave. This barrier is designed to obstruct new tunnel-building and hold back terrorist squads bent on attacking civilians and military targets. The negative environment the Hamas masquerade spread over the Palestinian issue also prompted the Trump administration to abandon its peace plans.

After pulling the rug from under all these concerned parties, Hamas has emerged with big plans for a

six-week civil protest campaign, and flush with cash for splurging on a making it a spectacular event, to climax on sensitive anniversaries along the way, such as the May 14 dedication of the US embassy in Jerusalem; and the May 15 70th anniversary of Israel independence, which the Palestinians mark as Nakba day, Day of Disaster, and any dates in between, such as Israel's eight-day Passover beginning on March 30.

Preceded by the terrorist group's first ever "military exercise," Hamas engineered a two-track operation. Up front, the March of Return protest was set to go forward as a "peaceful protest", while at the same time, its "commando" squads conducted infiltrations across the border into Israel to mark out a path for future terrorist attacks..

Exhibiting high organizational skills, Hamas hired a fleet of buses to collect worshippers from all the mosques in the Gaza Strip on Friday, March 30, at 10 a.m. sharp and drive them to a line 500-700 meters from the Israel border, where their preachers lead them in prayer. Participants in the Great March or Return are housed in six tent encampments set up parallel to the 69km-long border, with all the amenities for attracting reluctant volunteers to stay for the six-week campaign. three meals a day, running water, bathrooms and showers, medical facilities and Internet connections and even smooth pathways lined with beds of flowering shrubs. A sandbank separated the protesters from the border.

These preparations are the visible side of the Hamas campaign. The hullabaloo surrounding the March of Millions scheduled for Friday riveted the attention of Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian Authority security services. Thanks to this distraction, they all missed the import of the subversive actions which Hamas had stealthily set in train much earlier.

On March 13, the Palestinian Authority was targeted by a small bomb that was detonated as the convoy of the PA Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah and Intelligence chief Gen. Hamad Faraj drove into the northern Gaza Strip. Neither was hurt, but if there had been any prospect of a reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas up until then, it faded into the distant future. President El-Sisi's good offices were buried.

On March 22, Hamas security forces raided a building in the Zeitun district of Gaza City and killed four men, whom they claimed were the would-be assassins of the two officials. In fact, the four men were members of an extreme Salafi sect who had nothing to do with the bombing attack.

On March 24, a Hamas commando squad cut through the Israeli border fence and ignited an Israeli crane used in the construction of the deeply-sunk barrier going up – and down – around the Gaza Strip. All four ran back into Gaza before a shot was fired to stop them.

On March 27, another Hamas squad, this one armed with grenades and knives, cut through the border fence, and evaded the notice of Israeli units posted there long enough to walk 20km up to the gate of the big IDF base at Tzeelim. It was only then that IDF and police trackers caught up with them.

On Wednesday, March 28, a military forklift was set on fire by young toughs on the Gaza side of the border, who then turned back; next, an unarmed Palestinian stole across the border and was detained for questioning.

These incidents show Hamas to be testing the water ahead of its plan to use its spectacular "peaceful" protest campaign as another distraction from its real objective, which is to launch a wave of terror in Israel. This wave will rise as the protest campaign gains momentum.

Astonishingly, it took the IDF and its intelligence branch up until Wednesday to catch on to Hamas' double game. But neither the IDF nor Hamas can be sure of controlling the massed demonstrators,

long inflamed against Israel, for six weeks. They may well be penetrated by secret agents of fellow Islamist terror groups, such as the Islamic Jihad or Salafi sect extremists, some of whom are closely linked with the Islamic State's Sinai affiliate. These militants may lie in wait until their handlers order them to spring out and head for the border, pulling behind them hundreds of young Palestinians spoiling for violence. Israeli soldiers on guard would then be forced to stop the horde before it surges across for the "return" – first with crowd dispersal measures and then live fire.

## Palestinians: A March to Destroy Israel

Gatestone Institute

On March 30, an attempt by tens of thousands of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to infiltrate the border with Israel launched a six-week campaign of mass protests -- called the "March of Return" -- organized by Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other radical Palestinian groups.

The groups encouraged Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to head to the areas adjacent to the border with Israel. The protesters were also encouraged to try to infiltrate the border, thus putting their lives at risk.

Hamas and its allies told the protesters that the "March of Return" marked the beginning of the "liberation of all of Palestine, from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River." In other words, the Palestinians were told that infiltrating the border with Israel would be the first step toward destroying Israel.

Hamas leaders Ismail Haniyeh and Yehya Sinwar, who joined the March 30 mass protests along the border with Israel, did not hide the real goal behind the "March of Return" -- to destroy Israel and thwart US President Donald Trump's yet-to-be-announced plan for peace in the Middle East.

The two Hamas leaders told the protesters that the March 30 demonstrations marked the beginning of a "new phase in the Palestinians' national struggle on the road to liberating all of Palestine, from the river to the sea." Haniyeh and Sinwar also made it clear that the "March of Return" had another goal: to foil any attempt by the Arabs to make peace or normalize their relations with Israel.

Based on statements made by Hamas leaders, the "March of Return" campaign is not about improving the living conditions of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Nor is it about finding ways to solve the "humanitarian" and "economic" crises in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas and its allies did not send the protesters to the border with Israel to demand jobs and medicine. They did not encourage Palestinians to risk their lives at the border with Israel because of the lack of electricity supplies to the Gaza Strip.

Instead, the organizers sent the Palestinians to the border after assuring them that this was the only way to flood Israel with hundreds of thousands of Palestinian "refugees" as part of the "right of return." The "right of return" refers to the Palestinian demand that Israel allow Palestinian "refugees" and their descendants to move to Israel.

As Zaher Birawi, one of the organizers of the "March of Return" explained, "The right of return is sacred and a red line not to be crossed. The Palestinians will do their utmost to achieve this right."

His words, together with those of the two Hamas leaders, prove that the mass protests are aimed at forcing Israel to accept millions of Palestinian "refugees" as a first step towards turning Jews into a minority in their own country. The next step would be to kill or expel the Jews and replace Israel with an

Islamic state.

Crucial here is the fact that what we witnessed along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel on March 30 was not a protest by poverty-stricken and miserable Palestinians against a blockade of any kind.

If that were so, why didn't the organizers ask Palestinians to march toward the border with Egypt? The real blockade on the Gaza Strip is being imposed by Egypt, and not Israel.

In 2017, the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip was open altogether for less than 30 days; by contrast, the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip was open for more than 280 days during the same year.

Israel enforces a naval blockade on the Gaza Strip that is meant to prevent Iran, Hezbollah and other terror parties from smuggling weapons into the coastal enclave controlled by Hamas. At the same time, Israel has kept its border crossings with Gaza for the movement of goods and individuals.

Israel permits Palestinians to enter and leave the Gaza Strip through the Erez border crossing. Last month, the Palestinian Authority Prime Minister entered the Gaza Strip through the Erez border crossing, only to have his convoy targeted by a roadside bomb once inside Hamas-controlled Gaza. Israel also allows foreigners to enter the Gaza Strip through the same border crossing. They include journalists, diplomats, and hundreds of foreigners working for various international aid agencies, including the United Nations.

All this while the Rafah border crossing with Egypt remains closed. Since the beginning of this year, the Egyptians opened the border crossing intermittently only for two or three days each time. Egypt also continues to bar foreigners from entering the Gaza Strip through the Rafah terminal. Even Arabs who want to help the people of the Gaza Strip are forced to enter through the Erez border crossing because the Egyptians do not give them permission to use the Rafah terminal.

In 2017, Egypt opened its Rafah border crossing with the Gaza Strip (pictured above) for less than 30 days altogether; by contrast, the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip was open for more than 280 days during the same year. (Photo by Chris McGrath/Getty Images)

Take, for example, the Qatari envoy to the Gaza Strip, Ambassador Mohammed Al Emadi. Each time he leaves and enters the Gaza Strip, he uses the Erez border crossing with Israel. The Egyptians will not allow him or any other Arab seeking to help the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to enter through the Rafah terminal.

Given this reality, the question is: Why aren't the Palestinian protests directed against Egypt? The answer is obvious.

The Palestinians know that messing with the Egyptian army will cost them a heavy price. If Israel used snipers to stop the March 30 protesters from crossing the border, the Egyptian response would undoubtedly have been much tougher. The Egyptians would have used artillery and warplanes against the Palestinian demonstrators. The Palestinians are well aware that the Egyptian army would raze the entire Gaza Strip if the Palestinians breached the border and undermined Egypt's national security.

Besides, the "March of Return" is intended as part of the Palestinian national struggle against the "Zionist entity" -- Israel -- and has nothing to do with the closure of any border.

It is part of the Palestinian jihad (holy war) to eliminate Israel, which they see as a "colonialist project"

imposed on the Arabs by Western powers after World War II. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, in a rare moment of honesty, admitted earlier this year that this is precisely how Palestinians and Arabs perceive Israel.

The organizers of the "March of Return" have made it clear that besides flooding Israel with millions of Palestinian "refugees," the campaign has two other objectives: to foil Trump's "deal of the century" and stop any form of Arab normalization with Israel.

The Palestinians have proclaimed a wholesale rejection of Trump's plan because they know it will not advance their goal of turning Jews into a minority in their own country. Trump's plan, they believe, does not recognize the Palestinian "right of return," which means that "refugees" and their descendants will not be allowed to move into Israel, turning it into an Arab-majority state.

The organizers of the "March of Return" have clearly stated that this is a driving force behind the mass protests -- to send a message to the Trump administration that Palestinians will not accept any deal that does not facilitate their dream of replacing Israel with an Arab Islamic state.

The "March of Return" is also aimed at sending a warning to the Palestinian Authority and the Arab countries not to make any concessions to Israel or collaborate with the Trump administration.

Again, this is not what political analysts are saying. Instead, these are the exact words and phrases used by the organizers of the event. Their ultimate goal: to prevent Mahmoud Abbas and his Palestinian Authority from returning to the negotiating table with Israel and to threaten Arab countries not to sign peace agreements with Israel.

Now, the organizers are telling us that the "March of Return" will continue and reach its peak in mid-May, on the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Israel.

The "March of Return" is yet another phase in the Palestinian attempt to wipe out the presence of Israel in the Middle East, not about any blockade. The "March of Return" is an anti-peace campaign designed to thwart any attempt to achieve peace between Israel and the Arab countries.

The leaders of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the other groups that organized the mass protests are now complaining about the high death toll and accusing Israel of opening fire at "unarmed and peaceful" protesters. These are the same leaders who urged their people to head to the border with Israel and to try to force their way into Israel. These are the same leaders who encouraged their people to damage the security fence along the border with Israel. Did they expect the Israeli soldiers to greet them with flowers?

As for Mahmoud Abbas, he has supplied yet more proof of his towering hypocrisy. Hours after the violent confrontations along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel, Abbas appeared on Palestine TV to hold Israel "fully responsible" for the violence and death and injury of the protesters.

This is the same Abbas who recently told us that Hamas was a terror group that was behind the March 13 botched assassination attempt on his prime minister. This is the same Abbas who last year imposed sanctions on the Gaza Strip by suspending payments for electricity supplied to the Gaza Strip by Israel and suspending payments to thousands of civil servants there. Instead of condemning Hamas for sending the Palestinians to clash with the Israeli army and endanger their lives, Abbas chose to denounce Israel for protecting its border.

The Palestinian "March of Return" is being mistakenly referred to by some journalists and political analysts as a "peaceful and popular" drive by Palestinians demanding freedom and better living

conditions.

But, as has become evident by now, the "March of Return" is nothing but a declaration of war on Israel and the Trump administration.

Next up:

**“Christ at the Checkpoint”**: this group distorts and skews the Israeli/Arab conflict by presenting a “Palestinian Jesus” who is oppressed by the Jews. Evangelicals involved in these conferences and road show seem to think they are called to come to the aid of “Palestinian Christians” who are then victims of Jewish oppression, ignoring the biblical teachings on Israel and the Jews and presenting the Jews as the terrorists and Israel as an occupied state. Involved in previous CATC conferences: liberals Lynne Hybels, Tony Campolo, Shane Claiborne. Beyond these three musketeers, it’s very difficult to actually find out who is behind this organization today, they tend to stay way under the radar. Nevertheless, these liberal “theologians” should worry less about Christ being stopped by the Jews at a checkpoint and more about Christ being stopped at the door of their anti-semitic, replacement theology churches. – MD

Halt 'Christ at the Checkpoint.' It's fueling anti-Semitism.

By Earl Cox [jpost.co.il](http://jpost.co.il)

The whole of the Christian church is comprised of many denominations and the Bible teaches that we are to be united in one body in order reflect the love of Christ to the world. While we do not have to be on the same page concerning methods and traditions of worships, we are to be united on at least the fundamentals of our faith but sadly we are quite divided. Many in mainstream churches have been deceived by teachers who have crept in unawares spreading false doctrine. The Bible warns that in ‘later times some will fall away from the faith paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.’ Today this doctrine of demons is manifesting in the form of Replacement Theology and BDS against Israel.

As I pen this article the Christ at the Checkpoint conference is gathering steam and many C.I.N.Os (Christians in Name Only) are coming together in the very land where Jesus was born – where He was born to Jewish parents in a town called Bethlehem which is located in the land deeded to the Jews by God Himself but which is now occupied by Palestinians. Many of those gathering for this heretical conference have been duped into believing that God no longer considers the Jews His chosen people or Israel His special land. My Bible teaches that God made an eternal covenant with the Jewish people and eternal means forever. Those who embrace Replacement Theology have motives which are antithetical to the Word of God. The Bible describes these people as ‘wolves in sheep’s clothing’ who have taken great liberty in rewriting and wrongly interpreting the Bible to fit their anti-Semitic agendas. Why else would the organizers of this conference be holding it in the Palestinian occupied town of Bethlehem and actively promoting support for BDS campaigns against Israel? Those currently making news by joining their forces with those who have lined up against Israel are the United Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church (with some exceptions), the Mennonite Church USA, United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church USA and others.

Now I know that the Bible teaches that Christians are not to judge however it does give us great liberty

to be 'fruit inspectors.' Even Jesus said in the Book of Matthew that we would know His people by their fruits. He goes on to warn in the very next sentence that, "Not everyone that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter in to the kingdom of Heaven." Clearly Jesus is talking about C.I.N.Os (Christians in Name Only).

The organizers of the Christ at the Checkpoint conference have apparently not read the unedited version of The Holy Bible which has been unified in accuracy since the time Jesus was crucified by the Romans. The Christ at the Checkpoint conference is farcical of the first order. It is being falsely promoted as a conference for evangelical Christians by people with a political agenda who will answer to God Almighty for their misleading teachings. The Bible talks repeatedly about 'the fear of the Lord being the beginning of wisdom.' The people organizing and attending this gathering are clearly off base, the educated ignorant who have no fear of the Lord. Not only are they 'touching the apple of God's eye' but they are working hard attempting to poke it out.

Genuine Evangelical Christians are on guard against false teaching because we read the Bible for ourselves and believe it to be the inspired Word of God - absolutely true from cover to cover. If just one sentence is wrong then the whole book should be thrown away. If God cannot accurately record exactly what He meant then clearly He is not capable of being the Creator of the Universe and the Author and Giver of Life. Genuine Evangelical Christians are led by the Holy Spirit of God and not by the ideas of man. Replacement Theology is an anti-Semitic attitude born of jealousy and hatred which states that wherever God talks about Israel and the Jews He is really talking about Christians and the church. There is absolutely no place in the touchstone of Christianity, the Holy Bible, asserting the doctrinal position of the church replacing Israel. Being a doctrine, a belief with no factual basis, means that it was made-up. Something made-up is as malleable as one wants to make it in order to support a contrary position.

As long as there are those willing to ascribe to an agenda not based on fact, why not start a 'Peter Pan the Palestinian' at the Checkpoint conference? It will give the believers something to do and maybe shed a tear or two because the young Palestinian boy named Peter has to go through a checkpoint brought about by terrorism, brutality and murder instigated and perpetuated by a clearly defined segment of a hostile population.

## Report: Israeli jets entered Iranian airspace undetected

Kuwait newspaper releases report that Israeli F-35's entered Iranian airspace undetected by Russian radars in Syria and Iran's air defense system; Source claims IAF jets flew over Iranian cities with nuclear facilities.

Media reports Thursday claimed that Israeli stealth jets entered Iranian airspace undetected sometime in the past month.

The report first surfaced in Kuwait's Al Jarida, with a source claiming that two Israeli F-35's entered Iranian airspace. It reported that Israel Air Force jets flew over Syria and Iraq to enter Iranian airspace, the jets reportedly flying over Bandar Abbas, Esfahan and Shiraz- Iranian cities associated with its nuclear program.

The source claimed that the jets were undetected both by Iran's Russian-purchased air defenses, which it deployed to its nuclear sites, or by Russia's radar systems in Syria.

The Israel Air Force announced its F-35 "Adir" fighter jets as fully operational at the end of 2017. The

F-35 is capable of carrying over 16 tons of bombs and missiles and is most unique for having the most advanced stealth technology of any aircraft. The F-35 is also Israel's solution to the S-300, as it is capable of evading the air defense system.

Israel is the first country aside from the United States to acquire the world's most advanced fighter jets. Israel received five F-35's total. Israel is set to receive a total of 50 F-35's, Israel's security cabinet having approved the \$1.5 billion purchases as part of the United States and Israel's Memorandum of Understanding. Israel's security cabinet approved the purchase of 14 jets in 2014, the number rising to 50 with reports that Israel intends to purchase a total of 75 jets.