

**Israel Today – January 20-22, 2012**  
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**Piling On Iran**

U.S.: Int'l Pressure Affecting Iran - Yitzhak Benhorin  
A senior Obama Administration official told Israeli reporters in a special press briefing on Wednesday that the U.S. has a plan for tackling the Iranian nuclear program and that the method of action will be aggressive and quick. He said the U.S. was implementing a policy to reduce Tehran's profits on oil so that it won't be able to fund the nuclear project. According to the official, the U.S. has set a timetable for the full implementation of international sanctions against Iran, which would be immediately set in motion. (*Ynet News*)

Canada's PM: Iranian Regime "Frightens Me"  
UK Foreign Secretary: "We Will Apply Stronger and Stronger Sanctions" on Iran

Turkey Works to Cut Dependence on Iranian Oil

China Begins to Turn Against Iran

Wen Jiabao, the Chinese premier, issued Beijing's clearest condemnation yet. "China adamantly opposes Iran developing and possessing nuclear weapons," he said. China appears to have sent a message to Iran that it could not rely on Beijing's unstinting support by reducing its imports of oil at a time when the U.S. and Europe are promoting an embargo on the country. (*Telegraph*)

Israel's Trade with the Muslim World - Shuki Sadeh  
Israeli business quietly thrives in Saudi Arabia and Iraq, in Indonesia and Malaysia. Owners avoid harmful publicity. Israeli companies export to Saudi, through US-registered subsidiaries. Israeli companies have also provided equipment such as body armor to US forces stationed in Saudi Arabia. Israel receives raw materials for its plastics industry from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries. Israel's plastics industry exports greenhouse sheeting, irrigation drippers, house and garden products, disposable utensils and food packaging to Saudi Arabia. Some of these products are made by Turkish factories established by Israeli companies. Quite a few companies in the Gulf states rely on Israeli technology for security purposes. Israel also exports medical, agricultural and water technologies to the Gulf states. (*Ha'aretz*)

Israel to Continue as High-Tech Power -

Dr. Orna Berry, the former chief scientist of Israel, she said Israel's high-tech arena will continue to thrive because the country is "sufficiently paranoid to always be transformational and to have a competitive edge." She cited the recent investment by Apple Corporation in Is-

rael, the first Apple investment outside the US, as an example of how US companies are turning to Israel as a strategic partner.

Prez Candidate Doesn't Foresee Cancellation of Treaty

According to a 11/11 poll by the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, former Egyptian FM (1991-2001) and Arab League Sec'y-General Amr Moussa is leading the Egyptian presidential race with 39% support. In an interview with *Asharq Al-Awsat* "As for Egyptian-Israeli relations, the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is in place, and I do not think there are any circumstances that will lead to its cancellation. I do not think this will happen, and I do not think it would be wise for this treaty to be cancelled. The treaty will continue so long as each party respects it." "As for the security situation in the Sinai Peninsula and the presence of Egyptian forces there, I believe that the security articles of the treaty should be reviewed in this regard." "As for the Palestinian cause, Egypt must not turn its back on this, for this is part of Egypt's nat'l security. As Egyptians, we are the largest neighbor to Palestine and Israel, and so we must work to control the situation in this region." (*Asharq Al-Awsat-UK*)

New Chief of Staff "Staunch Israel Supporter" -

Natan Sharansky said that the new WH chief of staff, Jack Lew, has a "warm place in his heart that is reserved for Israel and Judaism.... His faith and bond w/ Israel and the Jewish people is an important part of his life."

Video: IDF Aid Missions Save Thousands in the World

Over the last 26 years, Israel has sent out 15 aid missions to countries struck by natural disasters. Upon arriving IDF doctors set up field hospitals. Overall, medical care was given to more than 2,300 people in afflicted areas, and 220 were saved from certain death.

US-Israeli Missile-Defense Exercise

The largest-ever joint missile-defense exercise by the two countries, involving thousands of U.S. soldiers will simulate missiles fired by Iran toward Israel. The drill is scheduled to take place in the summer. Washington wants to avoid an escalation of tensions with Iran.

The Silent Young Jewish Majority - (*Commentary*)

A recent poll by the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise of 400 American Jewish undergraduate students found that 66% view themselves as feeling "very close" or "fairly close" to Israel. The AJC's 2011 annual survey found that 68% of the general Jewish population also described their feeling toward Israel in similar terms.

US General to Convince Israel to Give Sanctions Time  
Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in Israel Thursday for meetings with Israeli leaders. He will try to reassure Israel that the Administration is committed to stopping Iran's nuclear program, even if it ultimately comes down to using military force.

Israeli Leviathan Field Gas Estimates Up, Oil Down  
The Israeli partners in the Leviathan natural gas and oil field Sunday revised the estimated amount of gas reserves upwards to 20 trillion cubic feet from 16 trillion cubic feet. They revised downwards the oil reserves to 600 million barrels from 3 billion.

Israeli Census: 722,000 Jews Live Beyond 1967 Lines - A census report: in 2011 the number of Jewish residents in the W. Bank was 342,414, plus 300,000 Jews who live in neighborhoods in N and E Jerusalem over the pre-1967 lines. 722,000 Jews are living beyond the "green line," including in the Golan Heights, tacks in settlements, and abducting Israelis. (*Ha'aretz*)

Israeli Unmanned Naval Vessel (*Israel Defense Forces*)  
The Protector unmanned surface vehicle (USV) is an Israeli-developed vessel, that can gather intelligence, take part in naval warfare and act as an anti-terror protection force.

IDF, JNF Planting Trees for Protection  
Trees are being planted around Israeli communities that are close to the border, making it more difficult for terrorists to accurately target homes and residents.

U.S. Terror Victims: Prosecute Palestinian Terrorists  
The Parents Forum for Justice (PFJ), U.S. citizens and parents whose children were murdered or maimed by Palestinian terrorists in Israel over the past decade, sent a letter to AG Eric Holder Thursday asking him to prosecute the perpetrators of the bombings that harmed them and their families who were freed in Israel's recent prisoner exchange with Hamas. Under the 1991 Anti-Terror Act, the U.S. can prosecute foreign nationals who perpetrate terrorism against American citizens, even if those acts are not carried out on U.S. soil. (*JPost*)

Palestinian Security Forces at Demonstrations  
The IDF has identified an increase in the participation of PA security forces in anti-Israel demonstrations throughout the WB. According to one, the army arrested 3 Palestinian policemen in civilian clothes at demonstrations after they threw rocks at Israeli security forces. The PA is financing the weekly demonstrations held near Bil'in, Ni'lin and Nabi Salih. (*JPost*) Ten Islamic Jihad militants were arrested near Jenin in recent months. The cell was planning attacks on IDF soldiers, shooting at

Hamas Attack on Gaza Shiites May Indicate Shift - Hamas security forces - up to 100 policemen and masked men in civilian clothes - stormed an apartment building in Beit Lahiya in Gaza on Saturday where Shiite Muslims were gathered to commemorate the death of Imam Hussein, the Prophet Mohammed's grandson. Hamas is gravitating towards newly empowered Sunni Islamist groups in the Arab Spring countries of Egypt and Tunisia, to settle sectarian scores. (*Nat'l-Abu Dhabi*) Hamas has fallen out with its former puppet-masters in Iran. The mullahs' new favorite proxy is Islamic Jihad.

The Egyptian Army's Economic Empire (*Jerusalem Post*)  
Egypt's army is the owner and operator of a vast empire of factories, tourist resorts and real estate dev'ts. The military loaned the central bank \$1 billion to help support the sagging Egyptian pound last month. The armed forces own and run much of the food industry, including plants manufacturing olive oil, milk, bread and bottled water - all subsidized by the gov't. They also run a number of cement factories, gas stations and refineries, clothing and kitchen facilities, vehicle production factories, as well as hotels. Military businesses are free from gov't oversight and are not required to pay taxes. (*Media Line-*

A Leaner Muslim Brotherhood - (*American Interest*)  
Now that the Islamists in Egypt are no longer locked in a struggle with Mubarak's regime, they are beginning to crack into factions. Three main elements can already be identified: the old hard core that predates the 1970s, those who joined up in college and took the Brotherhood's ideas into civil society and professional organizations, and the youth.

The Case for a United Jerusalem - Nathan Diament  
Modern-day Jerusalem is an interwoven checkerboard of Jewish and Palestinian enclaves. Recent polling indicates that a plurality of Palestinians residing in eastern sections of Jerusalem would move to Israeli Jerusalem if given the opportunity, should the city be re-divided. Israel has proven that its authority over all of Jerusalem can ensure protection of and access to holy sites. The int'l community would never expect the Islamic world to cede sovereignty over Mecca; the Jewish people ought to be accorded no less respect with regard to the Old City of Jerusalem. (*Atlantic Monthly*)

Gaza's Rulers Ban Palestinian Singing Competition (*AP*)  
Organizers of the Palestinian version of "American Idol" said Thursday that Gaza's rulers have banned residents from participating in the show. Hamas told them the program is "indecent."

Saudi Nuclear Watch - Bill Gertz  
U.S. intelligence agencies are closely watching Saudi

Arabia for signs that the kingdom will seek to develop nuclear weapons. (*Wash. Times*)

Palestine Women's Ministry Staff on Hunger Strike - Women employees at the Pal. Women's Affairs Ministry announced a "hunger strike till death" Tuesday to protest against corruption and harassment. (*Gulf News-Dubai*)

#### The Israeli-Palestinian Water Conflict

Palestinians insist that they suffer from water shortages due to Israeli occupation. Israel has fulfilled all obligations according to the signed water agreements w/ the PA. Its water supply increased by ~50%. In 1967, only 4 Palestinian towns were connected to a running water network. In 3/10, 641 of 708 Pal. communities, 96+% of the population, were connected to running water; in Jordan and Syria, most towns are not. In 2006, water consumption was 170 cubic meters/person/year for Israelis, 129 for Palestinians. Palestinians have violated the agreement refusing to build sewage treatment plants (despite int'l financing). Raw sewage discharged from Pal. communities flows freely in streams in the West Bank. The Israeli FM slammed a French legislator's report on Israel's "apartheid" water policies as "venomous," inaccurate and strewn with anti-Israel propaganda. (*JPost*)

#### Hizbullah Has Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles

Hizbullah has taken advantage of the upheaval in Syria to obtain advanced weapons systems, including Russian-made, long-range surface-to-air missile systems: those with ranges from 600m to ones with a 100-km. range.

#### Barak: Decision on Iran "Very Far Off"

Barak said his country is "very far off" from deciding on whether to launch a military strike on Iran's nuclear program. He said the U.S. respects Israel's freedom of action and that the Israeli gov't doesn't "have the luxury" to "roll over responsibility" for Israel's fate to the US.

#### Hizbullah Rejects Call by UN Sec'y-General to Disarm

Ban said in Beirut: "All these arms outside of the authorized state authority, it's not acceptable," he declared.

#### Fate of Syrian Chemical, Bio Weapons Concerns Israel

Israel has serious concerns about what will happen to "huge stockpiles" of chemical and biological weapons in Syria when the Assad regime collapses. Official: "I don't know who is going to own those the day after.... What will be transferred to Hizbullah?" (*Ynet*)

#### Hamas Attacks Shiites in Gaza - Avi Issacharoff

Hamas men attacked a gathering of 30 Shiite worshippers in Gaza Friday, arrested 14 of the men and beat the rest. Gazan sources said that Islamic Jihad now contains a group of converts to Shia Islam, led by Iyad al-Hosni. Becoming Shiite is a growing trend in Gaza, where hundreds of Sunnis are known to have converted. (*Ha'aretz*)

#### The Gap between Resistance and Governance in Gaza

Neither the gov't nor the resistance in Gaza is willing to step in to protect people who criticize them. Every day we see detention and summoning of citizens by the dozens for who they are and what they think, or for their mere political affiliation. There are reports of hundreds of cases of torture and abuse. Training sites, functioning in places close to neighborhoods and/or schools, victimize. The int'l director at the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, was stabbed multiple times by several masked attackers Friday. (*AFP*)

#### Who Is Behind Cyberattacks on Israel? - Eli Lake

Hackers attacked websites associated with Israel's stock exchange, its two largest banks, and El Al. The offensive was launched a week after a hacker published thousands of credit-card numbers he claimed to have pilfered from Israeli commercial sites.

#### Misunderstood/Misrepresented - Andrew Percy MP

Israel is a country misunderstood and misrepresented. Looking across the border with Lebanon and peering at Hizbullah strongholds, no more than 100 yards away from where I was standing, underlined the significance of Israel's strategic frailty in the face of constant threat.

#### What Abdullah Hopes to Achieve from Talks

The negotiations in Amman are intended to help Abbas and Abdullah bolster their stature among their constituents and the int'l community. For Abdullah, the meetings distract attention from protests at home. Abbas is hoping the talks will ease US and EU pressure on him to resume the peace process. (*Stonegate*) Israel hopes the Palestinians are not looking for an excuse to leave direct negotiations just two weeks after they began. A PA official in Ramallah said the US and some EU gov'ts were putting pressure on Abbas to continue the talks 1/ 26.

#### Who's Killing Those "Nuclear Scientists" in Tehran?

Scads of writers are quite sure that the Jews did it. I'm struck by the uncritical expertise that would have us believe the Jews can do anything, even operate at will in the center of their most formidable enemy's capital city. That one's out of the old anti-Semitic scrolls: whenever anything happens that upsets you, just blame the Jews. They can do anything, anywhere. If only it were true.

#### Israel Raises Alarm over Sinai-Gaza Security Threat

Netanyahu Monday: "The security problem which is developing as a result of changes in the Middle East is getting worse, and is expected to continue for years. Libyan arms flow into Gaza through Sinai.... Terror elements have entered the region, they're using the area as a platform for terror." We have smuggled thousands of shoulder-launched SAM missiles to Gaza," a Bedouin leader told CNN. (*CNN*)

### IDF Preparing for Major Gaza Action

The IDF General Staff has ordered the Southern Command to prepare for a large Gaza operation in the next few months. Officers said the operation could be significantly larger than Operation Cast Lead (2008). (*JPost*)

### IPU Offers Apology on Hamas (*AP-New York Times*)

Israel's parliament speaker, Reuven Rivlin, said he had received an apology from the Inter-Parliamentary Union for the attendance of a Hamas official at a meeting of the organization. The group invited senior Hamas officials to participate in a meeting on human rights. Hamas was declared a terrorist organization by the EU and that it has called for Israel's destruction and shoots missiles and rockets at Israeli civilians. Israel is an active member of the IPU and pays annual dues of NIS 350,000. (*JPost*)

### Palestinians Arrested with Bombs at Checkpoint

IDF forces arrested 2 at the Salem checkpoint near Jenin in the W. Bank Monday after they were caught with 10 pipe bombs, a makeshift handgun, and ammunition. Four Palestinians were arrested last week for carrying bombs to carry out an attack on a military court. (*Ha'aretz*)

### Egypt's Next Parliament to Be Led by Islamist

Liberals and Islamists in Egypt announced a temporary agreement Monday on a power-sharing plan that would install a Muslim Brotherhood leader as speaker of the country's newly elected parliament. The People's Assembly will convene Monday. Its powers are unclear. Egypt's military rulers have made clear that they would like to oversee the constitution-writing process. At a Muslim Brotherhood rally in Cairo on 11/25/11, Islamic activists vowed to "one day kill all Jews." The deputy leader of the Brotherhood, told the Arabic daily *al-Hayat*, that Israel was a "criminal enemy" with whom Egypt should never have signed a peace treaty.

## **AND FROM LAST WEEK ....**

### U.S. Boosts Military Presence in Persian Gulf

The Pentagon has shifted combat troops and warships to the Middle East. Deployments are intended as a quick-reaction and contingency force in case a military crisis erupts in the standoff w/ Tehran. The Pentagon has stationed nearly 15,000 troops in Kuwait and will keep two aircraft carriers and their strike groups in the region.

### U.S. to Sell Israel 2,500 Used Hummers, Trucks -

The IDF will purchase 2,500 Hummer vehicles, trucks and other equipment used by US forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. Payment will come from the military aid provided by the U.S. to Israel.

### Greece, Israel Pledge to Boost Defense Ties

Greece and Israel pledged Tuesday to boost defense cooperation during a visit to Greece by DM Ehud Barak.

Greece, which did not officially recognize Israel until 1991, has stepped up efforts to attract investment and expertise to shore up its economy. The Greek said Athens is keenly interested in Israel's economic rapprochement w/ traditional Greek ally Cyprus to develop undersea gas deposits in the eastern Mediterranean. (*AFP*)

### 15 Growing Israeli Startups to Watch in 2012 -

Any.DO - organize your life. Wibbitz - transforms text content into interactive short videos. Onavo - monitors your data usage. Tawkon - lets users know how much radiation is being emitted from their cellphone. BillGuard - detects fraud and hidden charges on your credit card. Shaker - created a beautiful virtual world in Facebook. Bizzabo - networking made easy. Solutio - a virtual helpdesk for PC users. Waze - a community-based traffic and navigation app. Face - face recognition platform. Magisto - video editing. Mobli - photo sharing. Fooducate - eat better. Gigya - make your website social. Wisestamp - revolutionizes email signatures.

### \$50M Israeli UAV Sale to Latin America (*Ynet News*)

Elbit Systems announced a \$50 million contract to supply Hermes 900 UAVs to a country in the Americas to provide a variety of perimeter security missions. Israel Aerospace will sell weapons systems worth more than \$1.1 billion to an Asian country over the next four years.

### Google Pouring Money into Israeli Startups -

Google's investments in Israeli companies in the past 2 years include takeovers of LabPixies (\$25 million) and Quiksee. Other investors that have acquired Israeli assets include Facebook and eBay.

### Israeli Natural Gas to Jordan? - Gal Luft

Jordan is affected by the repeated explosions caused over the past year by saboteurs in Sinai on the natural-gas pipeline there. These disruptions, directed at Israel cost the kingdom \$1.7+ billion per year in switching to more expensive fuels. Israel's discovery of reserves of natural gas in the Mediterranean means it will soon be in a position to export gas to Jordan and thus boost economic relations. The construction of a pipeline connecting Israel and Jordan would be far less expensive and faster to build than any of the other proposals currently contemplated by Israel for marketing its gas - an opportunity for Jordan and Israel to solidify their fragile peace.

### Israel's Population Stands at 7.8 Million (*Ha'aretz*)

Israel's population is 7.836 million. Jews = 75.3% (5.9 million); Arabs = 20.5% (1.6 million); 4.2%, 325,000 are non-Arab Christians and others. 2011 saw a 1.8% increase in population. 166,800 babies were born and 17,500 new immigrants arrived.

### Israeli Economy Expanded 4.8 Percent in 2011 -(*JPost*)

The Israeli economy grew 4.8% in 2011. Exports ad-

vanced 4.5% in 2011, after gaining 13.4% in 2010. Investment in fixed capital climbed almost 16%.