



Let's Talk Peace...

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...True Peace!

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NEWS and the JEWS

The week in review

Two Generations Murdered

Thousands of people took part in the funeral procession Tuesday afternoon of Assaf Hershkovitz, 31, who was murdered by terrorists. Terrorists waiting in ambush fired dozens of bullets into his van, hitting him several times in the chest and neck and killing him almost instantly. The attack occurred on the Ofrah-Jerusalem highway, about 300 meters north of the T-junction leading to Beit El; a Beit El resident was shot at in the same spot two days ago. The terrorists escaped via a nearby side road, traveled only by Arabs. Assaf is survived by his wife and two children: a son, 4, and a daughter, 2.

Assaf's father Aryeh, also from Ofrah, was similarly murdered by Palestinian terrorists three months ago, outside Atarot in northern Jerusalem - about eight aerial kilometers from where his son was killed. Ofrah suffered another terrorist loss two months before that, when Miriam Amitai, who grew up in Ofrah and whose family still resides there, was killed in the Kfar Darom bus bombing last November. (INN)

School Safety

Despite mounting Israeli fatalities in shootings on Israeli roads, hundreds of Israeli schoolchildren travel to and from school each day in non-bulletproof buses or vans, officials said Wednesday. (JPost)

What's New..

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office has issued the following statement: "The current attacks are the result of a strategic decision by Arafat. The organizations subject to Arafat -- including Fatah, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hizballah -- understand that they have a 'green light' to continue attacks against Israel." (INN)

Still Our Partner ?

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, visiting in Washington, gave a different message than his cabinet colleagues. He said Tuesday night that Israel would be prepared to make "painful compromises" regarding the Yesha settlements when the negotiations are resumed. "We cannot solve everything with force," he told reporters upon his arrival in Washington. He further said that Arafat remains Israel's peace partner. (INN)

Sources IsraelNationalNews.com. and Jpost.com

STUFF you should know

Innocent Civilians?

The findings of last week's poll by the Jerusalem Media and Communication Center are particularly interesting, in light of recent comments by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and others against collective punishment of the Palestinian population. Peres has said that Israel will ensure that the Palestinian population, "which is not engaged in warfare against Israel," can lead normal lives. Defense Minister Ben-Eliezer, too, has explained this as the reason for the recent and continuing relaxation of security restrictions upon the Palestinians.

The poll, entitled "Palestinian Attitudes Towards Politics including the Current Intifada," included questions to a random sample of 1,200 Arabs over the age of 18 throughout Judea, Samaria and Gaza. INN's Ron Meir reports that a central finding of the poll is the overwhelming Palestinian support for suicide bombs against Israeli civilians. When asked about suicide bombing operations against Israeli civilians in Israel, a whopping 73.7% came out in support of such actions - with 54.4% "strongly attacks" and 19.3% "somewhat supportive." Less than 16% opposed suicide bombings of Israeli civilian targets. Similarly, some 80% of Yesha Arabs support the continuation of the mini-war against Israel, while only 13.3% oppose it.

Source: INN

PEOPLE of the BOOK

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By increasing the level of joy, one nullifies all that is undesirable. The reason why there has been such emphasis on joy in one's service of G-d in these latter generations is clear. The latter generations have suffered from an extra measure of negative influences, the effects of darkness of the exile, etc. Therefore, in order to nullify this, we should increase the level of joy connected with Torah and Mitzvos. From this, it is understood that when we see that the negative forces are still visible in their full might (and they seem so overwhelming that a person could even point at them with his finger), this is proof that the joy which has existed until this time is not enough to crush the reality of the negative forces. Therefore, we must increase our joy even more. This is all the more applicable when we look at the most recent period in history, where we witnessed an especially strong wave of immorality. Not only should we not be fazed by all these difficulties; on the contrary, we should increase all aspects of joy which emanate from holiness — a robust, iron-willed increase of joyous festivities

From the talks of The Lubavitcher Rebbe Concerning the Integrity of the Land of Israel Shabbos Parshas Chaye Sarah, 5746 (1985)

SAY WHAT?

Don't Be Confused

"You will soon hear much talk of diplomatic moves, reduced violence and peace... pay no attention don't be confused. Only one sacred duty is laid on you: to carry on the battle against the Zionist enemy and escalate it."

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met secretly with Tanzim militia chiefs in Ramallah April 28 2001