

RAMADAN TENSIONS

RAED SALAH RETURNS TO THE TEMPLE MOUNT

1 Raed Salah, head of the Northern Branch of the Islamic Movement in Israel, visited the Temple Mount over the past days to take part in the preparations for the coming month of Ramadan. The Northern Branch was outlawed ten years ago, not only because of its ties to Hamas, but also because of its "Al-Aqsa is in Danger" campaign that the Security Cabinet said inspired "the vast majority of the recent Palestinian terrorist attacks."

It is thus ironic that Salah is still active in Temple Mount activities. It can be anticipated that the Muslim Brotherhood, and its daughter organizations Hamas and the Islamic Movement, will be working to enflame Jerusalem in general, and the Temple Mount in particular – on the backdrop of similar efforts that failed during the Gaza war, and the declining Hamas prestige in the Gaza Strip as President Trump's Gaza peace plan appears to be getting off the ground.



2 School strike in eastern Jerusalem: Christian and other private schools announced the move with the beginning of the second semester of the 25-26 school year this past week. The strike encompasses some 20,000 students in 14 different schools, and has the support of eastern Jerusalem's official Parents Committee. The organizers are protesting the new restrictions placed on the entry of teachers from the PA-controlled areas, including a ban on entry on Fridays and Sundays. The Christian schools' General Secretariat said that these restrictions make it impossible to implement the curriculum. The principals said the strike is Israel's fault, and would continue until the entry passes are once again given out for all days of the week.

A change does not appear in the offing, however: Just yesterday, the Knesset passed a bill preventing PA-trained teachers from teaching in Israel, given that the PA subsidizes terrorism and the teachers bring pro-terror messages to their students. The number of Arab students who now study the Israeli curriculum, as opposed to the PA's, is on the rise, standing at 40,000 out of the city's 130,000 Arab students. The training of Arab teachers is also increasing, with a new two-month course is designed to train 1,000 teachers to teach the Israeli curriculum.

3 A Jerusalem court has sentenced Adnan Gheith, the PA's Jerusalem governor, to prison for violating the Oslo Accords Implementation Law. As a permanent resident of Israel, Gheith is legally barred from holding any position in the Palestinian Authority - yet he serves as its city governor. This marks an unprecedented step against Gheith, who in the past was barred from entering Judea and Samaria due to his Fatah activities, including involvement in terrorist-related actions. Restrictions were also placed on the PA's Jerusalem affairs minister, Al Awar, for similar violations.

Gheith, of a Hebron family, is held in high regard in the Gaza Strip, unlike other PA leaders – especially Mahmud Dahlan, who was once considered a candidate to head the new technocratic government in Gaza. Dahlan is particularly unacceptable to Qatar and Turkey, as the Turks consider him to have masterminded an attempted coup against Turkish President Erdogan.

4 Given Foreign Minister Gideon Saar's decision to cut ties with a series of UN organizations, including "UN Women" - which works for the empowerment of women - the following is noteworthy: A building in the eastern Jerusalem neighborhood of Biet Hanina houses branches of several UN orgs - including "UN Women," which refused, at the beginning of the war, to address the Hamas crimes against Israeli women on Oct. 7th and when they were held captive. Chains now block off parking spaces outside the building, with UN signs stating that the spots are reserved for employees working in the building.



Sign at the entrance of a building in Beit Hanina, listing the UN organizations operating there.



Reserved parking spaces in front of the UN building in Beit Hanina.

5 On sale for tourists at the Mt. of Olives: Souvenirs with the words "Free Palestine," including maps of the Holy Land that feature "Greater Palestine" from the river to the sea – and with no mention of Israel.



Tourist souvenirs sold at a stand on the Mount of Olives.

6 Israel continues its various efforts to stop the flow of illegal PA residents entering Jerusalem over and around the security barrier. Some illegals have been stopped at some of the most unprotected spots in the wall, while others got away – leaving some of their belongings behind. Just today, a suspicious minivan was stopped at a Jerusalem crossing – and 20 shabahim were found inside.

