Wednesday’s “News in Review” Round-Up

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Germany Permits Hezbollah ‘Suicide Bomber’ Charity to Operate: Benjamin Weinthal, *Jerusalem Post*, June 26, 2013

WEEKLY QUOTES

“Jews must be able to defend themselves, by themselves, and to act with determination, against any enemy that tries to harm us. We will continue to develop our land. The most important thing is to deepen our roots, because all the rest grows from there. We are here today to deepen our roots.” — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking to elementary students during a visit to the town of Barkan, Samaria, a few miles north-east of Tel Aviv, where he attended the dedication of a school named after his father, historian Benzion Netanyahu. (*New York Times*, June 24, 2013)

“Netanyahu supports — and he truly does support — building a Palestinian state within Israel...What we’ve learned over the past 20 years is that each time we gave up land of ours, within a very short time frame, terrorists initiated severe attacks from that land and killed thousands of Israelis. People don’t realize the Palestinian supposed state would be on a mountain, and narrow Israel would be right below. I’ve got four kids. I’m not about to place them right underneath this big mountain. In the longer run, I see some sort of involvement of Jordan. My problem right now is that the international community is forcing upon us national suicide, because injecting, yet again, a terror state into the heart of our country is national suicide. So what am I to do — say, ‘You’re pressuring me, so I’ll commit suicide?’” — Naftali Bennett, Economics Minister and Bayit Yehudi party head in an interview with the *Washington Post* Friday [June 21]. (*Israel National News*, June 22, 2013)

“[T]wisted rhetoric artfully aimed at the hearts and minds of the West, originated by the Arabs, and rivaling the Soviets, who are veterans of ‘semantic infiltration’ and the word-war. Just as, in their lexicon, totalitarianism translates into ‘democracy,’ and degradation becomes ‘freedom,’ so has the flawed but democratic Israel been branded ‘Zionist imperialist’ and ‘racist.’” — Joan Peters, from her book, *From Time Immemorial*, in which she refers to something she identified as “turnspeak,” as quoted by Richard Cravatts in *Front Page Magazine*. (*Front Page Magazine*, June 6, 2013)
“With all the talk about the need to create a Palestinian state for the sake of justice or even to assure that Israel remains a Jewish state, Gaza provides a daily clinic on the consequences of more Israeli territorial withdrawals. Hard as it is for some people to remember, when Israel withdrew every last soldier or settler from Gaza in 2005, it was not assumed that the strip would become a terrorist base. Rather, there was hope that it would provide a chance for the Palestinians to show that they truly could govern themselves. But from the first day after the withdrawal—when mobs burned abandoned synagogues and tore down the greenhouses that had been purchased from their owners to give to the Palestinians to use—what has happened in Gaza is a walking, talking illustration of what the world could expect if the independent Palestinian state that we are endlessly told is the only solution to the conflict ever actually comes to pass.” — Jonathan Tobin in Commentary. (Commentary, June 24, 2013)

“...anti-Semitism is... somewhat like a version of mental illness.... The Nazis thought of Poles and Slavs and Gypsies as racial inferiors by all means, but the organizing principle of their racism, the thing that gave it its energy and its consistency, was the hatred of the Jew...Because anti-Semitism is the godfather of racism and the gateway to tyranny and fascism and war, it is to be regarded not as the enemy of the Jewish people, I learned, but as the common enemy of humanity and of civilization....” — the late writer Christopher Hitchens, in a lecture on anti-Semitism for the 2010 Daniel Pearl Memorial event, quoted by Paul Gross in The Jerusalem Post. (Jerusalem Post, June 10, 2013)

“Maybe people try to be pragmatic or, in the conduct of international affairs, worship at the altar of compromise or consensus. I am more of a conviction politician, like Stephen Harper.” — John Baird, Foreign Minister of Canada, in an interview with The Times of Israel, on the occasion of his participation in Israel President Shimon Peres’ recently held President’s Conference, explaining his and the Canadian government’s steadfast support of Israel. (Times of Israel, June 25, 2013)

"All these [Israeli] actions indicate an evil and dangerous plot to destroy Al-Aqsa [Mosque] and build the alleged Temple. Unfortunately, these dangers, which are clear for everyone to see, have yet to receive proper Arab, Islamic and international responses." — Mahmoud Abbas, Palestinian Authority Chairman, in an interview to the Saudi paper Al-Watan, translated by Palestinain Media Watch, where he continues to promote the PA libel that Israel is scheming and acting to destroy the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. (Palestinain Media Watch, June 26, 2013)

“[A] stalemate in peace efforts would cause an explosion in Palestinian-Israeli ties in a sort of Arab Spring-like protests, taking the form of either a new intifada or a cycle of violence and counter-violence.” — King Abdullah of Jordan, in a statement to the mass circulation London-based Asharq Al Wasat daily, one day before U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry brings his peace plane to Israel. This, the king said, would be the result if Israel does not accept Palestinian Authority demands to release all pre-Oslo Palestinian prisoners, stop all “settlement” construction in Judea and Samaria and agree to negotiate on the basis of the pre-1967 boundaries including East Jerusalem. (Jewish Press, June 26, 2013)

“Some think that the way to go is to divide the country. We do not belong to this group. Therefore we need to understand that every decision has a price, and therefore if we do not adopt the annexation plan, we will pay the price through pressure and boycotts of Israel and Judea and Samaria. When we clearly declare that these areas are not up for negotiation and that we are going to apply sovereignty over them, we can come before the public and say in a clear and loud voice that these lands are ours and we are prepared to pay a demographic price for this. Israel should say it is headed towards applying sovereignty. It makes no sense to leave this in the air for 45 years. Leaving it up in the air sends a message that we have no connection to these places.” — MK Tzipi Hotovely (Likud), Deputy Transportation Minister, to Arutz Sheva, saying that offering citizenship to Palestinian
Authority Arabs would be a small price pay for ending the status quo which brings international criticism of Israel, viewed as an “occupier” in Judea and Samaria. *(Arutz Sheva, June 25, 2013)*

“I’m a social activist in the Arab sector. I’m fighting for equal rights for Arabs but together with that, I insist that Israeli Arabs do their part for our country by volunteering for either the army or national service and giving back to the State in other ways. I’m a proud Israeli Arab who has nothing to do with the “Palestinian people.” — Anett Haskia, an Israeli Arab activist in an interview with A Jewish Israel. *(A Jewish Israel, June 21, 2013)*

"The uncomfortable, unspoken truth is that the parallels between the plans of the Nazi leadership for the postwar European economy and the subsequent process of European monetary and economic integration are real. The BIS (Bank for International Settlements) runs like a thread through both. The key, for both the European project and the ever broader mandate of the BIS, was to present decisions, policies and actions as 'technical' and 'apolitical,' of no concern to the average informed citizen. In fact the opposite was true. There could hardly be anything more political than the handing over of national powers to unelected supranational bodies, while the necessary financial mechanisms were arranged and managed by a secretive and completely unaccountable bank in Basel." — Adam LeBor in his book the "Tower of Basel: The Shadowy History of the Secret Bank That Runs the World" as quoted by Philip Delves Broughton in his review of Mr. LeBor’s book in *The Wall Street Journal*.

The BIS was created in 1930 to be a talking shop for Europe's central bankers as Germany reeled from its reparations burden between the First and Second World Wars. The bank's original sin was to treat the Third Reich as if it were just another country. After the Nazis marched into Prague in 1939, the BIS facilitated the transfer of Czechoslovakia's gold reserves to Berlin. During World War II, BIS officials maintained close ties with the Nazis and companies such as IG Farben, which enabled the Holocaust's ghastly efficiency.

After the war, the BIS provided a reputation-laundering service for German bankers and industrialists, those Hannah Arendt called "the desk-murderers," to re-emerge as pillars of a new, economically integrated Europe….Karl Blessing worked at the BIS in the 1930s, then spent most of the war as financial director of Kontinental-Öl, one of the Third Reich's heaviest users of concentration camp labor. Despite being arrested and imprisoned at the end of the war, he re-emerged, with the help of his old friends in international banking, to become president of the Bundesbank.

Today, says Mr. Lebor, the bank's amoral way and anti-democratic way of thinking remain. The BIS and its economists, he argues, provided the intellectual underpinning and model for "the steady and relentless erosion of national sovereignty" that is the euro. LeBor makes a strident case for challenging these financial shamans. They are not, he argues, the impartial heroes of good governance that we wish they were. Rather they are what a democracy should fear most: tyrants who use the rules of finance rather than troops or captive parliaments to exercise control. *(Wall Street Journal, June 24, 2013)*

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**SHORT TAKES**

**U.S. DEMANDS RUSSIA HAND OVER FUGITIVE NSA LEAKER SNOWDEN**—*(Washington)* The U.S. government Monday [June 24] demanded that Russia hand over fugitive Edward Snowden, as his efforts to evade U.S. authorities took a farcical turn. Mr. Snowden arrived in Moscow on Sunday and was expected to fly out to South America shortly afterwards. Monday, a plane heading for Cuba left seemingly without him, and the U.S. suggested he had remained in Russia. The army of journalists waiting to greet him were left bemused, and questioning where he could be, as those reporters who did manage to get on the plane were dismayed to discover that Mr Snowden’s seat was empty. President Barack Obama said the US was using "all the appropriate legal channels" to apprehend him. Jay Carney, the White House
spokesman, said Washington assumed he was still in Moscow, and had registered its “deep disappointment” with Hong Kong and China for letting him slip away. “This was a deliberate choice by the [Chinese] government to release a fugitive despite a valid arrest warrant, and that decision unquestionably has a negative impact on the US-China relationship,” said Mr Carney. (National Post, June 24, 2013)

**TERRORIST GROUPS SHIFTING TACTICS IN WAKE OF NSA LEAKS**—(Washington) U.S. intelligence agencies are scrambling to salvage their surveillance of al-Qaeda and other terrorists who are working frantically to change how they communicate after a National Security Agency contractor leaked details of two NSA spying programs. It’s an electronic game of cat-and-mouse that could have deadly consequences if a plot is missed or a terrorist operative manages to drop out of sight. Two U.S. intelligence officials say members of virtually every terrorist group, including core al-Qaeda, are attempting to change how they communicate, based on what they are reading in the media, to hide from U.S. surveillance — the first time intelligence officials have described which groups are reacting to the leaks. (National Post, June 26, 2013)

**TERRORIST RECEIVES DOCTORATE FROM HEBREW UNIVERSITY**—(Jerusalem) Adel Hidmi, a terrorist who served two prison terms following his involvement in planning a suicide bombing and other terror activities, received his doctorate in chemistry at Hebrew University this past week. A resident of east Jerusalem, Hidmi was convicted in 1992 for his involvement with terrorist organizations and served ten months in prison. Despite his record, Hebrew University accepted Hidmi as a doctoral candidate where he began his double career as a chemistry student and terrorist networker, according to a news report in Israeli newspaper, Maariv. This past Sunday, Hidmi was awarded his doctorate degree. Elan, a third-year [Hebrew University] student in politics and communications said, “I think it’s going too far to allow someone with Himdi’s record to study at Hebrew University. It’s one thing to have a criminal record, but to have a terrorist record is entirely different matter.” (Algemeiner, June 20, 2013)

**LEBANON FACES TUMULT AFTER DEADLIEST SYRIA-LINKED CLASHES**—(Beirut) The Gunfights between the army and Sunni Muslim radical groups in the southern port of Sidon extended into Monday night [June 24] after Lebanese soldiers stormed a complex holding gunmen loyal to a radical Islamist cleric and arrested dozens of his supporters. Violence also spread to the city of Tripoli in the north. Residents fear that Syria-related clashes could drag their country back into sectarian civil war. The army said 12 soldiers were killed in Sidon where troops stormed the mosque complex of hardline Sunni cleric Ahmed al-Assir. A medic told Reuters that 22 bodies had been pulled from the mosque complex. Late on Monday, clouds of smoke rose from the mosque. Assir’s office across the road was completely destroyed. At least 4 tanks and several army vehicles at the scene had been torched. Assir remained at large. (Egypt Independent, June 25, 2013)

**LITTLE MOMENTUM FOR KERRY AHEAD OF ISRAEL VISIT**—(Washington) Secretary of State John Kerry has been unable to win quick agreement for new peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, and as he returns to Israel this week, the sense of momentum surrounding his effort is fading. Kerry had hoped to announce earlier this month that both sides were ready to return to the negotiating table after a lull lasting most of the past five years, but PA President Mahmoud Abbas is dragging his feet, resisting strong U.S. pressure to drop his conditions for new talks. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed to restart talks, and Israeli officials squarely blame Abbas for the delay. "I think we should stop negotiating about the negotiations. I think we should just get on with it," — Netanyahu said. (Washington Post, June 24, 2013)

**ISRAELI DOCTORS SAVE SYRIAN LIVES** — (Zefat) In critical condition with severe shrapnel injuries to their torso and limbs, bullet wounds from head to toe and open fractures — this is how Syrian patients arrive at Israeli hospitals in the north of the country. And they are all treated like any other patient. “It’s our duty as a regional hospital, where we are located along the Lebanese border on one side and the Syrian border on the other side,” Dr. Amram Hadary, director of the trauma unit at Ziv Medical Center in
Safed (Tsfat), tells ISRAEL21c. Although Israel and Syria are officially enemies some 50 victims of the bloody civil war have been admitted to Israeli hospitals for life-saving surgeries. (ISRAEL21c, June 26, 2013).

EGYPT VILLAGERS "PROUD" OF KILLING SHIITES — (Cairo) Residents of the Egyptian village of Abu Mussalem outside Cairo said they were "proud" of the mob lynching of four Shiite Muslims, after weeks of anti-Shiite rhetoric in the media. Witnesses and security officials said that on Sunday hundreds of residents surrounded the house of a Shiite resident after learning that a leading Shiite cleric was inside. The mob threw firebombs at the house, hoping to set it ablaze, while chanting "Shiites are infidels." Then they stormed the house, dragged the four Shiites out and beat them to death. "We're happy about what happened. It should have happened long ago," said teacher Mohamed Ismail, to the approving nods of residents. (Yahoo! News, June 24, 2013)

EGYPT WILL RUN OUT OF STRATEGIC FUEL RESERVES WITHIN A WEEK — (Cairo) Egypt's strategic reserves of three vital fuel products will run out by end of this month, Turkish news agency Anadulo reported on Thursday, citing Petroleum Minister Sherif Haddara. According to Haddara, Egypt has enough diesel fuel to last eight days, butane enough for ten days and petrol enough for 14 days. The news agency stated that the government was currently providing the nation's gas stations with 18,000 tonnes of octane per day and 37,000 tonnes of diesel fuel, while also providing the country's power stations with 23,000 tonnes of low-quality mazut fuel. In recent weeks and months, Egypt has seen a spate of intermittent power blackouts, which government officials have attributed to chronic fuel shortages. (Al-Ahram, June 21, 2013)

JORDAN, ISRAEL WEIGH GAS DEAL — (Tel Aviv) Jordan has been holding talks to become the first country to buy natural gas from Israel. A deal would offer Jordan a cheap energy source and relieve a painful energy crisis. Two years of supply shortages from Egypt's pipeline to Jordan have spurred a 50% rise in the cost of cooking gas and higher electricity rates, prompting anti-government demonstrations in October. "Jordan is in the most immediate need and would be the first client" for Israel, said Oded Eran, a former Israeli ambassador to Jordan and now a fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies. "Stability in Jordan is of strategic significance to Israel." Eran said a link to Jordan could be established "relatively quickly" by extending a pipeline several miles across the Dead Sea from an Israel Chemicals plant powered by gas. (Wall Street Journal, June 25, 2013)

EGYPTIAN GENERAL Warns AGAINST VIOLENCE AS ANNIVERSARY APPROACHES — (Cairo) The Egyptian military warned Sunday that it was prepared to act decisively to prevent chaos as fears rose that mass protests against President Mohamed Morsi planned for next week could ignite fresh violence between his Islamist supporters and the opposition....In raising the specter of “a split in society whose continuation is a danger to the Egyptian state,” the military cast itself as a unifying force that could transcend political differences and hold the country together. The military’s “patriotic and moral responsibility toward its people compels it to intervene to keep Egypt from sliding into a dark tunnel of conflict, internal fighting, criminality, accusations of treason, sectarian discord and the collapse of state institutions,” said General Sisi, who is also the defense minister. His remarks appeared on a military spokesman’s official Facebook page. (New York Times, June 23, 2013)

TALIBAN LAUNCH DEADLY ATTACK IN KABUL — (Kabul) The third in a series of audacious strikes by the Taliban in the capital in recent weeks came early Tuesday, when one of two vehicles carrying attackers and explosives penetrated one of the most secure areas of Kabul, near the presidential palace and a C.I.A. compound, officials said. Though the attackers caused relatively little loss of life — three private guards were killed — the assault’s progress past a major checkpoint troubled many. There were ripples far beyond the capital, as well. Afghan officials with the government’s High Peace Council said the attack would further jeopardize any hopes of salvaging a stalled effort to open negotiations with the Taliban in Qatar. (New York Times, June 25, 2013)
PA'S ABBAS ACCEPTS PM HAMDALLAH'S RESIGNATION — (Ramallah) Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas accepted newly appointed PA Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah’s resignation on Sunday [June 23]. Hamdallah submitted his resignation to Abbas last Thursday [June 20], less than three weeks after he succeeded former PA prime minister Salam Fayyad. Hamdallah resigned in protest against the appointment by Abbas of two deputy prime ministers with expanded authorities: Muhammad Mustafa and Ziad Abu Amr. On Friday [June 21], Hamdallah agreed to withdraw his resignation after meeting with Abbas in Ramallah for nearly two hours. But the following day, Hamdallah insisted that his deputies be removed or have their powers cut as a precondition for taking back the resignation, a PA official said. Hamdallah’s demand reportedly angered Abbas, who decided to accept the resignation and search for another prime minister, the official said. Hamdallah’s decision to step down caught Abbas and the PA leadership by surprise. (Jerusalem Post, June 23, 2013)

BOMB ATTACKS NEAR IRAQ MARKETS KILL AT LEAST FORTY-TWO — (Baghdad) A series of evening bombings near markets in and around Baghdad and other blasts north of the capital killed at least 42 people and wounded dozens of others Monday in the latest eruption of bloodshed to rock Iraq. The attacks were the latest in a wave of violence that has claimed more than 2,000 lives since the beginning of April. Militants, building on Sunni discontent with the Shiite-led government, appear to be growing stronger in central and northern Iraq. The violence came as tens of thousands of Shiites poured into the holy city of Karbala, 80 kilometres south of Baghdad, for the annual festival of Shabaniyah, marking the anniversary of the birth of the ninth-century Shiite leader known as the Hidden Imam. Tight security measures were in force to try to prevent insurgent attacks on the worshippers. (CBC News, June 24, 2013)

ISRAELI SCIENTIST DISCOVERS TREATMENT TO SAVE BEE COLONIES—(Jerusalem) An Israeli professor working alongside an Israeli start-up has discovered a treatment for bees affected by a destructive virus. Hebrew University Prof. Ilan Sela has won this year’s Kaye Award for Innovation for discovering the IAPV virus, which is linked to Colony Collapse Disorder, and for finding a solution to the problem. Colony Collapse Disorder spreading within the bee population has caused $35 billion worth of damages in the US alone. Many crops rely on bees and farmers around the world have been quite worried about the adverse effect on certain crops due to the drastic reduction in the bee population. Until it was known that Colony Collapse Disorder was the culprit, many believed the bee population was being reduced due either to global warming or pesticide use. (United With Israel, June 21, 2013)

ON TOPIC

Virtually Every Terrorist Group in the World Shifting Tactics in Wake Of NSA Leaks: U.S. Officials: Kimberly Dozier, National Post, June 23, 2013 — U.S. intelligence agencies are scrambling to salvage their surveillance of al-Qaeda and other terrorists who are working frantically to change how they communicate after a National Security Agency contractor leaked details of two NSA spying programs.

Gaza’s Children and Educating Hatred: Seth Mandell, Jerusalem Post, June 24, 2013 — Over the past few days the blogosphere has raged over the fact that in Gaza, Islamic Jihad is running camps for kids featuring lessons on how to shoot an AK-47 and how to kidnap an Israeli soldier.

Germany Permits Hezbollah ‘Suicide Bomber’ Charity to Operate: Benjamin Weinthal, Jerusalem Post, June 26, 2013 — Berlin. Germany authorities remained largely mum on Tuesday about the continued operation of a Hezbollah-controlled NGO in the state of Lower Saxony that finances the families of Hezbollah members who commit suicide bombings against Israelis and support for the Lebanese Shiite group’s assassins and militia men.