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## ISRANET DAILY BRIEFING

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### WEDNESDAY'S "NEWS IN REVIEW" ROUND-UP

Contents: | [Weekly Quotes](#) | [Short Takes](#) | [On Topic Links](#)

[Jews Challenge Rules to Claim Heart of Jerusalem](#): Jodi Rudoren, *New York Times*, Sept. 21, 2013—  
[Israeli Scientists Make Breakthrough in Stem Cell Reprogramming](#): Viva Sarah Press, *Israel 21C*, Sept. 19, 2013

### WEEKLY QUOTES

**“Those who attempt to uproot us from the city of our forefathers [Hebron] will achieve the opposite effect. We will continue on one hand to fight terror and to harm terrorists and on the other hand to strengthen settlements.”** — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, responding to the recent death of two Israeli soldiers killed by Palestinians, one lured to his death by a fellow employee and the other shot to death by a Palestinian sniper at the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. ([Jerusalem Post](#), Sept. 23, 2013)

**“We know how to build and settle. Not to kill. This would be the appropriate Zionist answer [to the violence].”** — Economy Minister Naftali Bennett, in response Benjamin Netanyahu’s announcement that Jews could now live in a building in Hebron they were previously barred from. This in itself was a response to the murders of two Israeli soldiers by Palestinians. ([Jewish Press](#), Sept. 24, 2013)

**“In recent days, we witnessed two acts of horrendous murder that took the lives of two Israeli soldiers. Sergeant Tomer Hazan and Sergeant Gal Kobi of blessed memory. In light of the above, we request that you convene a governmental plenum as soon as possible, in order to discuss the states continued release of prisoners in light of the recent developments.”** — Ministers Bennett, Katz, Orbakh, Ariel, Landau, Landver, and Shamir, in a letter to Prime Minister Netanyahu. **“It was a mistake to commit to freeing terrorist murderers as a precondition for negotiations. Until this moment, Abu Mazen did not criticize these murders. He finances the man who murdered in order to free his brother in jail.”** — Minister Katz, in an interview after the letter was published. ([Jerusalem Online](#), Sept. 23, 2013)

**“In the near term, America’s diplomatic efforts will focus on two particular issues: Iran’s pursuit of nuclear weapons and the Arab-Israeli conflict. While these issues are not the cause of all the region’s problems, they have been a major source of instability for far too long, and resolving them can help serve as a foundation for a broader peace....The State of Israel is here to stay. I will never compromise the US’s commitment to Israeli security, nor my support for its existence as a Jewish state. [But] the Palestinian people have a right to live with security and dignity in their own**

**sovereign state [and the] continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank is tearing at the democratic fabric of the Jewish state.”** — President Barack Obama, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday Sept. 24. ([Jerusalem Post](#), Sept. 25, 2013)

**"I appreciate President Obama's statement that 'Iran's conciliatory words will have to be matched by action that is transparent and verifiable.'...Iran thinks that soothing words and token actions will enable it to continue on its path to the bomb. Like North Korea before it, Iran will try to remove sanctions by offering cosmetic concessions, while preserving its ability to rapidly build a nuclear weapon at a time of its choosing. Israel would welcome a genuine diplomatic solution that truly dismantles Iran's capacity to develop nuclear weapons. But we will not be fooled by half-measures that merely provide a smokescreen for Iran's continual pursuit of nuclear weapons. And the world should not be fooled either."** — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, responding to President Obama's address to the UN and to Iranian President Rouhani's so-called 'charm offensive' prior to the latter's trip to speak at the UN. ([Prime Minister's Office](#), Sept 24, 2013)

**"The picture that the Iranian representatives are portraying regarding openness and transparency of their nuclear program...stands in sharp contradiction with Iran's actual actions and the facts on the ground. [The issue was not] whether Iran has modified its diplomatic vocabulary...but whether it is addressing seriously and in a timely manner outstanding issues that have remained unresolved for too long."** — Shaul Chorev, head of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, to the annual meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna on Wednesday [Sept. 18]. Chorev castigated Iran for **"deception and concealment, creating a false impression about the status of its engagement with the agency...with a view to buy more time in Iran's daily inching forward in every aspect of its nuclear military program."** ([Times of Israel](#), Sept. 19, 2013)

**"There is no need to be fooled by the words," "The test is not in what Rouhani says, but in the deeds of the Iranian regime, which continues to advance its nuclear program with vigor while Rouhani is being interviewed."** — an Israeli statement issued late Thursday [Sept 19] in response to an interview with Iranian President Rouhani's on *NBC News*

**"We certainly recognize and appreciate Israel's significant concerns about Iran, given the threats that have been made against Israel and the outrageous comments that have come out of Iran for many years about Israel. "There's not an open-ended window for diplomacy. But we do believe there is time and space for diplomacy."** — Benjamin J. Rhodes, a deputy U.S. national security adviser, to reporters on Friday [Sept 20] ([New York Times](#), Sept. 21, 2013)

**"My sincere advice would be that when it comes to the government of Iran, we should carefully monitor deed far more than words."** — Prime Minister Harper, in response to talk of a diplomatic opening between the West and Iran over Tehran's drive to acquire nuclear weapons. (*National Post*, Sept. 25, 2013)

**"It does not take a historian to recognize the existence of the Holocaust — it just requires being a human being."** — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, responding to Iranian President Rouhani's ducking of a question about whether he, like his predecessor, believes the Holocaust was a myth. Mr. Rouhani answered, **"I'm not a historian; I'm a politician."** ([New York Times](#), Sept. 21, 2013)

**"This shows the really growing influence of al-Qaida in Africa. For years, the State Department did not want to declare al-Shabab a terrorist organization. They thought it was focusing on tribal issues. Now, we see, there is certainly an international dimension to them. [They are one of several] very significant terrorist groups are showing a capacity to attack outside of their borders and recruit people from here in the United States."** — New York Republican Rep. Peter King,

reacting to the massacre in which at least 62 people died at the hands of al-Shabab, a Somalian jihadist group, at an upscale shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya. ([Newsmax](#), Sept. 22, 2013)

**“It [Nairobi shopping mall] is a place where tourists from across the world come to shop, where diplomats gather. It is a place where Kenya’s decision-makers go to relax and enjoy themselves. Westgate is a place where there are Jewish and American shops. So we have to attack them.”** — Sheik Abdulaziz Abu Muscab, Al-Shabab military spokesman, as reported by *al-Jazeera*. ([National Post](#), Sept. 23, 2013)

**“Israel rejects the one-sided announcement which was published by the [EU] spokespersons [on Saturday].... This announcement ignores the European diplomats' blunt violation of the law, their disregard of a ruling of the Israeli court and their unnecessary provocation under the alleged pretext of humanitarian aid.... Diplomats are sent by their governments to be a bridge and not act as provocateurs.”** — Israel's Foreign Ministry, in a statement in response to the EU’s condemnation of the IDF’s confiscation of a truckload of “humanitarian aid” intended for Palestinians in Judea and Samaria. ([Israel Hayom](#), Sept. 22, 2013)

**“We assure you that treaties have no value in relation to the Islamic mentality....If French leaders want[ed] the Muslims to have control over the Alawi people...to throw them into misery? The Alawis refuse to be annexed to Muslim Syria, because, in Syria, the official religion of the state is Islam, [and this] will only mean the enslavement of the Alawite people and the exposure of the minorities to the dangers of death and annihilation..... The Alawi people appeal to the French government... and request...a guarantee of their freedom and independence within their small territory.”** — Suleiman al-Assad, grandfather of Bashar al-Assad, president of today’s Syria, writing to then French prime minister Léon Blum, urging him to protect the rights of Alawites and other minorities in the Levant in 1936. He cautioned the French Mandatory authorities against the idea of folding an autonomous State of the Alawites into an envisioned larger “Syrian Union.” Quoted by Franck Salameh in the *Jerusalem Post*. ([Jerusalem Post](#), Sept. 23, 2013)

**“Outwardly, you do not see much, but in their hearts [the inhabitant of the State of Damascus] hate one another. The Sunnites excommunicate the Shiahs, and both hate the Druse; all detest the Ansariyyehs [Alawites]; the Maronites do not love anybody but themselves, and are duly abhorred by all; the Greek Orthodox abominate the Greek Catholics and the Latins; all despise the Jews.”** — Isabel Burton, wife of famed British explorer Sir Richard Francis Burton in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Quoted by Franck Salameh in the *Jerusalem Post*. ([Jerusalem Post](#), Sept. 23, 2013)

**“The UN’s failures have become so constant and predictable they’re almost embedded in its very culture. Did anyone seriously think it might succeed in preventing a calamity in Syria, or in talking Iran out of its quest for membership in the nuclear club? When the UN gets involved, failure often seems pre-ordained. Advocates use it only for what they can get from it...Whether the UN is salvageable is an open question. Mr. Harper evidently — and with good reason — views efforts to improve conditions for women and children as a more valuable use of his time than joining the blowhards at the General Assembly podium for their ritual 15 minutes of self-congratulatory oratory. He should be applauded for that, not criticized by the multilateral-happy NDP. There are plenty of blowhards in reserve to take his place. Finding politicians willing to talk is never a problem.”** — Editorial in the *National Post*. ([National Post](#), Sept. 24, 2013)

**“I would think [Putin's] biggest security problem is radical Islam. He does not want the United States to look totally irrelevant in the Middle East, because otherwise he would be stuck with having to deal with radical Islam. There's also a necessity for the selfish interests of both sides for cooperation, especially if one looks at the long term situation of Russian.”** — Henry Kissinger, former U.S. Secretary of State to CBS's "Face the Nation". Putin has already stepped up Russian security

agency involvement in the North Caucasus region where he says terrorists and criminals are trying to gain a foothold in advance of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. ([Newsmax](#), Sept. 22, 2013)

**“The Temple Mount is in our hands — but is it really? It particularly offends me that the Israeli government puts into place restrictions which prevent Jews from fulfilling their basic right to freedom of worship [on the Temple Mount].”** — Michael Freund, a Jerusalem Post columnist who visited the site as a child in 1977 and returned for the first time last year, with 50 members of his synagogue. ([New York Times](#), Sept. 22, 2013)

**“My cousin said that if Jews don’t go up to the mountain there is an increased chance that the government will say Jews are not interested and will give it away. I’m taking them up. Someone took me up. They’ll take other people up; it’s a growing phenomenon.”** — Jack Stroh, a cardiologist from East Brunswick, N.J., who has been bringing friends [to the Temple Mount] for five years before the holidays of Sukkot and Passover.

**“We’re talking about something much deeper than visiting the place, we’re talking about a movement that wants to change the status quo from its roots. You’re dealing with the ultimate TNT in our national existence here.”** — Yedidia Z. Stern, a vice president of the Israel Democracy Institute and an Orthodox Jew with liberal leanings. ([New York Times](#), Sept. 22, 2013)

### [Contents](#)

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## SHORT TAKES

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### **NAIROBI ATTACK: KENYA FORCES COMB WESTGATE SITE** – (*Nairobi, Kenya*)

Kenyan forces are securing the Nairobi shopping centre attacked by suspected al-Shabab militants, as the stand-off enters its fourth day. A senior police source said early on Tuesday the operation was "over", however journalists at the scene have reported sporadic gunfire at the mall. There has been no official confirmation the siege is over. Kenya's president is expected to make a statement shortly. At least 68 people have been killed, including three soldiers. The Kenyan Red Cross says 51 people are still missing, and the BBC's Gabriel Gatehouse says mortuaries in the capital are expecting to receive more bodies. There are reports that part of the roof at the Westgate shopping centre has collapsed, following a fierce blaze on Monday. The Somali Islamist al-Shabab movement said it had carried out the attack in retaliation for Kenyan military operations in Somalia. ([BBC](#), Sept. 24, 2013)

**EGYPTIAN COURT BANS MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD** — (*Cairo*) An Egyptian court on Monday banned the Muslim Brotherhood group and ordered its assets confiscated in a dramatic escalation of a crackdown by the military-backed government against supporters of the ousted Islamist president Mohammed Morsi. The Brotherhood was outlawed for most of its 85 years of existence. But after the 2011 ouster of autocrat Hosni Mubarak, it was allowed to work openly and formed a political party, which and rose to power in elections. The ruling, which can be appealed, opens door for authorities to track down the group’s elaborate network of social services, dealing a deadly blow to its pillars of grassroots support. Since Morsi’s fall in July, the Egyptian military has moved with purpose to weaken the Brotherhood. Last week, English-language spokesman Gehad el-Haddad was arrested with other senior members of the group and charged with inciting violence. ([Times of Israel](#), Sept. 23, 2013)

**IDF SOLDIER SHOT DEAD BY PALESTINIAN SNIPER IN HEBRON**— (*Hebron*) A Palestinian sniper shot dead a soldier stationed the Tut Atarek Junction, across from the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron on Sunday. The soldier was named as Gavriel Kobi, 20, from Tirat Carmel. He was promoted to St.-Sgt. Maj. upon his death. The gunman fired at Kobi and another Givati Brigade infantryman positioned to defend the Jewish community, as part of the army’s holiday preparations. The soldiers were positioned near the pharmacy intersection and Beit Hamachpela, defending the road used by

Jewish residents of the quarter in Hebron. "From what we see, the shooting occurred over a long distance," a senior IDF source said. "At this stage, we have no clear direction as to the identity of the shooter." ([Jerusalem Post](#), Sept. 22, 2013)

**PALESTINIAN LURES ISRAELI SOLDIER TO THE WEST BANK TO MURDER HIM—** (*Kalkilya, Samaria*) IDF Sgt. Tomer Hazan was murdered by Nidal Amar, a Palestinian acquaintance who worked at an Israeli restaurant where Hazan also worked part-time. Amar lured him to a village near Kalkilya in the West Bank, killed him, and threw his body in a well. Amar said he intended to trade Hazan's body for his brother, a member of the Fatah Tanzim terror group, who has been in an Israeli jail since 2003. ([Times of Israel](#), Sept. 21, 2013)

**REBEL-ON-REBEL VIOLENCE SEIZES SYRIA—** (*Aleppo*) Across northern and eastern Syria, units of the *jihadist* group ISIS, an Iraqi al-Qaeda outfit whose formal name is the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham, are seizing territory from Western-backed rebels. Some U.S.-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA) fighters now consider the extremists to be as big a threat to their survival as the forces of President Assad. "It's a three-front war," a U.S. official said. The FSA rebels face the Assad regime, forces from its Lebanese ally Hizbullah, and now the multinational *jihadist* ranks of ISIS. ([Wall Street Journal](#), Sept. 18, 2013)

**COMPASS POINTS TO ASSAD —** (*New York*) Details buried in the United Nations report on the Syrian chemical weapons attack point directly at elite military formations loyal to President Bashar Assad. The inspectors listed the precise compass directions of flight for two rocket strikes that appeared to lead back to the government's elite redoubt in Damascus, Mount Qasioun, which overlooks and protects Mr. Assad's presidential palace and where his Republican Guard and the army's powerful Fourth Division are entrenched. The UN evidence was gathered through standard measurements and investigative techniques at the places where sarin-filled rockets struck on Aug. 21. At one impact site, investigators found the place where the rocket had passed through a "vegetal screen" above a wall just before it hit the ground and the small impact crater. "[T]he line linking the crater and the piercing of the vegetal screen ... has a bearing of 35 degrees," they said. Taken together, several such bearings lead back to and intersect at Mount Qasioun, investigators said. ([National Post](#), Sept. 19, 2013)

**JEWISH TOMBS REPORTEDLY DEFILED IN ALEPPO —** (*Aleppo*) Iranian news outlets say Jabhat al-Nusra fighters destroyed graves in the Syrian city. Al-Qaeda-linked terrorists reportedly demolished several ancient Jewish mausoleums in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo. The graves were located in the historical town of Tadif, according to the semi-official Iranian FARS news agency and other Iranian news outlets. The terrorists reportedly belong to the al-Qaeda-backed al-Nusra Front. A tomb said to be that of Ezra the Scribe is located in the town. It is unclear if it was one of the damaged grave sites. ([Times of Israel](#), Sept. 25, 2013)

**TUNISIA TO FIGHT "SEX JIHAD" TRIPS TO SYRIA —** (Tunis) Tunisia's women's ministry said Saturday it would come up with a plan to counter the growing number of women traveling to Syria to wage so-called "sex jihad" by comforting militants. Minister Lotfi ben Jeddou told the National Constituent Assembly on Thursday that Tunisian women had gone to Syria where "they have sexual relations with 20, 30, 100" militants. "After the sexual liaisons they have there in the name of 'jihad al-nikah' – [sexual holy war, in Arabic] -- they come home pregnant," he told MPs. Ben Jeddou did not elaborate on how many Tunisian women had returned to the country pregnant with the children of jihadist fighters. On Saturday, the health ministry statement said it had noted "an increase in the number of young women leaving for so-called jihad al-nikah", although it did not give any figures. ([Now Lebanon](#), Sept. 21, 2013)

**UN RIGHTS NOMINEE CRACKS UNDER PRESSURE, CONFESSES TO RECEIVING QADDAFI PRIZE —** (*Geneva*), September 23 - After Swiss media widely covered UN Watch's

announcement three days ago that it would release video and other evidence today, to prove that UN Human Rights Council nominee Jean Ziegler flagrantly lied to the world about his ties to the Muammar Gaddafi Human Rights Prize, the former Socialist politician cracked under pressure—and completely changed the improbable story to which he has clung so zealously over the past 11 years. Just last month, Ziegler again flatly denied in this audio interview that he received the Gaddafi Prize in 2002, or that he attended the ceremony. In an extraordinary capitulation today, Ziegler, acting in anticipation of UN Watch's video release, suddenly announced, in matter-of-fact fashion, that he did receive the prize and that he did attend the ceremony in Tripoli, Libya. ([UN Watch](#), )

#### **SUICIDE BOMBING KILLS 78 AT PAKISTANI ANGLICAN CHURCH** — (*Peshawar, Pakistan*)

A pair of suicide bombers blew themselves up outside a 130-year-old Anglican church in Pakistan after Sunday mass, killing at least 78 people in the deadliest attack on Christians in the predominantly Muslim country. Islamist violence has been on the rise in Pakistan in past months, undermining Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's efforts to tame the insurgency by launching peace talks with the Pakistani Taliban. Explosions struck the historic white-stone All Saints Church in the city of Peshawar, near the frontier tribal areas where Islamist militants have their strongholds, as hundreds of parishioners, many of them women and children, streamed out of the building. Within hours of the attack, Mr. Sharif toughened his stance considerably, but fell short of calling for outright military action against insurgents holed up in tribal areas on the Afghan border – an option supported by Pakistan's all-powerful army. ([Globe and Mail](#), Sept. 22 2013)

**400 KILLED IN TERROR IN 5 DAYS AND OBAMA SAYS 'WORLD MORE STABLE'** — (*New York*) Obama was not joking at the UN. He actually said, "The world is a more stable place today than it was five years ago." Does he watch TV? Does he know that Islamic terrorists killed 400 people in five days? Islamic terrorists killed 70 plus people in Kenya, 78 Christians in Pakistan, 142 people in Somalia and about 100 in Iraq the past four days, but President Barack Obama told the United Nations Tuesday, "The world is a more stable place than it was five years ago." ([Jewish Press](#), September 24th, 2013)

**ISRAELIS LIVING LONG, HAPPY LIVES, STUDY FINDS** — (*Jerusalem*) Israelis are living longer, happier lives, according to the 2013 Statistical Abstract of Israel released Monday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. 88% of Israelis say they are happy with their lives, compared with only 83% percent in 2002. 60% are also satisfied with their financial situation. Life expectancy has risen significantly in the past decade and is now 79.9 years for males born in 2012, and 83.6 for females. ([Times of Israel](#), Sept. 19, 2013)

#### [Contents](#)

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#### ON TOPIC

**[Jews Challenge Rules to Claim Heart of Jerusalem](#)**: Jodi Rudoren, *New York Times*, Sept. 21, 2013—Small groups of Jews are increasingly ascending the Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City, a sacred site controlled for centuries by Muslims, who see the visits as a provocation that could undermine the fragile peace talks started this summer.

**[Israeli Scientists Make Breakthrough in Stem Cell Reprogramming](#)**: Viva Sarah Press, *Israel 21C*, Sept. 19, 2013—New Israeli research could help facilitate the production of stem cells for medical use, as well as advancing our understanding of the mysterious process by which adult cells can revert back into their original, embryonic state. Weizmann Institute's Dr. Yaqub Hanna and his team have revealed the "brake" that holds back the production of stem cells, and found that releasing this brake can both synchronize the process and increase its efficiency from around one percent or less today to 100%.