



Teaneck USY

Israel Insight

ישראל מקרוב

News Briefs:

- Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's Government passes the two-and-a-half-year mark, despite severe criticism by the Winograd Commission of the War in Lebanon and the General Public. To the surprise and anger of many, he has not resigned, nor has the Knesset voted to dissolve the administration.
- A Qasam strike on the Zikkim army base leaves 69 soldiers wounded. As the Cabinet deliberates on how to cease the attacks, opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu argues that a full scale ground operation is necessary.

Tell us what you want!
Have ideas, comments or suggestions about Israel Insight? Email Elan Kugelmass at israelawareness@teaneckusy.org

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Developing Story: Israel Launches Air Strike in Syria

- CNN reported that Israel had violated Syrian airspace and fired at an armament convoy destined for Hezbollah. Syrian authorities confirmed that Israeli warplanes had been spotted in Syria, though they were ambiguous about where the planes were detected and what object they attacked. The Israeli government has refused to comment or even acknowledge the incident.
- American diplomats congratulated Jerusalem on "convey[ing] to both Syria and Iran the message that they can get in and out and strike when necessary." US foreign policy has been extremely critical of the two countries, since they are known to harbor and support terrorism.
- Most of the international community, besides Iran, N. Korea, Syria, Russia and Turkey remained silent in regards to the event. Even Arab countries did not criticize Israel. This is widely seen as a signal of the world's displeasure towards Iran and its allies for their nuclear- and terrorism-related activities.

Neo-Nazi Groups Deface Synagogue

- Nazi symbols and slogans were scrawled on a Sephardic synagogue in Eilat.
- Police estimate that there are a few dozen active neo-Nazis in the state, though no well-organized group exists. This event is one of the few well-coordinated attacks that seems to have been carried out by more than two or three people. Police are searching for a possible neo-Nazi cell.
- The Education Ministry urged teachers to bring the issue to the attention of students. Generally, it is thought that class discussion and evaluation will deter would-be members of the racist and violent movement.

Euro 2009 Tournament

Israel's national underage team moved forward in the qualifying matches for the Under-21 European Football Championship 2009. The elite team easily defeated Luxembourg, scoring 3-0. Next, they lost to Moldova 1-0. Israel has never won a UEFA title since the tournament's introduction in 1992. They are 4th out of five in their qualifying group, though they will need to take 1st or second to enter the tournament itself.

Shanah Tova

שנה טובה

The Teaneck USY Board would like to wish everyone a Shanah Tova U'Metuqah, A Good and Sweet New Year. Rosh Hashana begins Wednesday night at 6:53 PM. Taschlich is performed on Thursday afternoon. Rosh Hashana ends Friday evening, immediately followed by Shabbat (which is also a minor fast day, Tzom Gedalyah). Yom Kippur begins next Friday evening. May you have a meaningful and enjoyable start to the new year.