

Israel News Digest



Christian Friends of Israel

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Eight Nations Could Move Embassies to Jerusalem

Several nations that voted with the US at the UN are considering moving their embassies to Jerusalem. They include Guatemala, Honduras, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, and Togo. Israeli government officials and rabbis are practically ecstatic. The following are some observations concerning the move, partially taken from *jnnnews.com*.

TEN REASONS FOR RECOGNIZING JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL:

1. Jerusalem has been the official capital of the State of Israel and center of its government since 1950, the seat of Israel's President, the Knesset, and the Israeli Supreme Court.



PM Netanyahu and Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales.
(Twitter @IsraeliPM)

2. In 1967, Jordan rejected warnings from Israel and opened an aggressive war by bombarding Jerusalem. In response and in self-defense, Israel captured east Jerusalem.

3. As such, Israel's status in eastern Jerusalem is entirely legitimate and lawful under the international law of armed conflict.

4. The 1967 unification of Jerusalem by Israel through the extension of its law, jurisdiction, and administration to eastern Jerusalem, while not accepted by the international community, did not alter the legality of Israel's presence and status in and governance of the city.

5. The United States has consistently stated that the issue of Jerusalem must be solved by negotiation as part of a just, durable and comprehensive peace settlement.

6. Numerous politically-generated resolutions and declarations by the UN, UNESCO, and others, attempting to revise and distort the long history of Jerusalem and to deny basic religious, legal and historic rights of the Jewish People and the State of Israel in Jerusalem, have no legal standing and are not binding. They represent nothing more than the political viewpoints of those states that voted to adopt them.

7. The PLO and Israel agreed in the Oslo Accords that "the issue of Jerusalem" is a permanent status negotiating issue that can only be settled by direct negotiation between them with a view to settling their respective claims. The President of the United States, as well as the presidents of the Russian Federation and Egypt, the King of Jordan, and the official representatives of the EU are among the signatories as witnesses

to the Oslo Accords.

8. Neither UN/UNESCO resolutions, nor declarations by governments, leaders, and organizations can impose a solution to the issue of Jerusalem, nor can they dictate or prejudice the outcome of such negotiations.

9. Acknowledging the facts that Jerusalem is the capital city of Israel and acknowledging that locating the American embassy in Jerusalem is the sovereign prerogative of the United States would in no way prejudice or influence the peace negotiation process. They would be an acknowledgment of a long-standing factual situation and rectification of a historic injustice.

10. Statements by the King of Jordan, the Palestinian leadership, and Arab leaders that recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital or locating the USA embassy in Jerusalem will endanger the peace process and bring a wave of violence, are nothing but empty threats and unfortunate attempts to threaten a sovereign government and incite. Surrendering to such threats of violence and terrorism would be a dangerous precedent and a sign of weakness. (Arutz-7)

250 RABBIS TO TRUMP: BE STRONG AND HAVE GOOD COURAGE: Samaria Regional Council Chairman Yossi Dagan sent a letter to the White House in support of President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem. About 250 rabbis from around the country signed the letter. "You have a rare privilege now to be the first president to spearhead the recognition of Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the State of Israel," the rabbis wrote. "We are sure that you will be remembered in the history of the Jewish people forever as one who stood at the fore and was not afraid. May God's promise to Joshua be fulfilled upon you: *'Did I not command you, be strong and have courage, do not fear and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'*"

Head of the Samaria Council Yossi Dagan, as stated, transferred the letter to the White House, and said that "Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel, the American people understand it, everyone understands it, we support the president's decision, but remember that the State of Israel is an independent state and needs to make its decisions by itself." (Arutz-7)



Yossi Dagan, Head of Shomron (Samaria) Regional Council
(Photo: Eli Mendelbaum, via YNetnews.com)

Pray for President Donald Trump, in the midst of this courageous move, that he will be protected against the bombardment of criticism and hatred that will come against him. Pray for angelic shields to surround him.

ANALYSIS: UPENDING THE APPLCART: In a brief speech of 1,240 words, USA President Donald Trump did more on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, than "just" recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Over the last 24 years, since the beginning of the Oslo peace process, certain tenets have come to be accepted as truths: that the only solution is a two-state solution; that there can be no long-term interim agreements; that dozens of settlements will have to be removed; that a future Palestinian state must be free of Jews; and that Washington cannot recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital until there is a final peace deal.



US President Trump speaks on US embassy move Dec. 6, 2017 (video grab via www.thewhitehouse.gov).

Off and on over this period, a lot of intelligent people have devoted a great deal of time and energy toward trying to bridge the chasm between the most Israel would offer and the minimum the Palestinians were willing to accept. And despite their best efforts, they couldn't bridge the gap. Along comes Trump, the most nontraditional and nonconformist of all USA presidents, and says "enough is enough." What has been tried didn't work, so it's time to try something new.

TRUMP'S SPEECH: "When I came into office, I promised to look at the world's challenges with open eyes and very fresh thinking," Trump said. "We cannot solve our problems by making the same failed assumptions and repeating the same failed strategies of the past.

Old challenges demand new approaches.” Every USA president for the last 20 years has signed the presidential waiver keeping the embassy out of Jerusalem, but it did nothing to promote peace, he said. “It would be folly to assume that repeating the exact same formula would now produce a different or better result.” In other words, the USA kept its embassy out of Jerusalem for all these years, but how did that work out for everyone? So Trump ditches the formula, and by doing so, places all on notice that what was is not what will be, and that if one sincerely wants to move the diplomatic process, it is necessary to try a different approach. Beyond righting a historical wrong in denying the Jews the right to determine where their capital is, Trump’s announcement about recognizing Jerusalem could also give the diplomatic process a badly needed jolt by forcing people to rethink long-held assumptions that have led nowhere (*JPost*).

Even though most of the Muslim nations in the UN voted against the Trump move, there are actually some interesting things in the Quran about the Jews and Palestine, and by implication Jerusalem. In Surah 5:20 it says, “He has raised up prophets among you, made you kings, and given you that which He has given no other nation. Enter, my people, the only land which God has assigned for you. Do not turn back, and thus lose all.” In 17:1, it says, “Glory be to him who made his servant (Muhammad) go by night from the Sacred Temple (Mecca) to the farther Temple (Al Aqsa) whose surroundings (Jerusalem) we have Blessed.”

This writer met an Iranian Muslim on a plane one time, who told me that Muslims don’t read the Quran because they can’t, due to the difficult Arabic in which it was written. So there should be nothing in Islam that has anything to say about where Israel’s capital should be. What matters is what God has said in His Word:

“The Lord is around His people like the mountains are around Jerusalem, now and forever” (Psalm 125:2, NLV).

On behalf of CFI Jerusalem, I want to wish you all a very Happy New Year! We look forward to what the Lord has in store for His beloved city – the City of the Great King – in 2018.

In Messiah,

Lonnie C. Mings



Christian Friends of Israel
invites you to celebrate
Israel's 70th Birthday
April 16-19, 2018
in Jerusalem
Contact: events@cfjjerusalem.org