

INSIDE THE MIDDLE EAST: INTELLIGENCE PERSPECTIVES “ITME”

Congressional Staff Delegation to Israel and The Palestinian Territories

August 2 – August 11, 2019

IMPLEMENTED ITINERARY

Friday, August 2, 2019

10:30 PM **UA 72** Departs Dulles International Airport, Washington DC for Ben Gurion International Airport, Tel Aviv

Saturday, August 3, 2019

4:30 PM **UA 72** Arrives at Ben Gurion International Airport, Tel Aviv

Our **Representative** holding a sign that says **ITME** will meet the group at the exit of the airplane.

They will **escort** the group through arrival airport formalities and connect them with **Avi Melamed, the President & CEO of Inside The Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives** and **Maia Hoffman, the Chief Operating Officer of Inside The Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives** who will be waiting in the Arrivals Hall. Maia and Avi will take the group to the bus.

6:15 PM The bus will depart the airport for Tel Aviv

7:00 – 8:30 PM **Middle East Update over Dinner**

This Inside The Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives (ITME) Educational Field Seminar follows 9 Educational Seminars held in Washington DC in February and March 2019 (Curriculum enclosed).

The 9 DC based sessions were designed to build the database necessary to understand the contemporary Middle East. Hand in hand with building the database, Middle East updates regarding current events were also part of the Seminars.

This opening session will consist of a general update of events that have transpired in the region since the last Seminar in DC which was held on March 18th. In addition, the participants will be able to ask any questions they have regarding current events.

Speaker: **Avi Melamed**, President & CEO, Inside The Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives

Location: Yulia | 1 Yordei HaSira Tel Aviv

8:30 PM Depart Yulia and take bus to hotel - **Rothschild 65 Hotel in Tel Aviv.**

9:00 PM Check-in to Hotel

Overnight: Rothschild 65 Hotel | 65 Rothschild Boulevard, Tel Aviv | Phone: +(972) 3 - 767-7677

Sunday, August 4, 2019

Subject: The Faces of the Israeli - Palestinian Conflict: The West Bank - A Behind the Scenes Understanding of the Reality of Palestinians and Israelis Living in the West Bank

6:30 AM Buffet Breakfast is served

8:15 AM Depart Hotel and walk to to Rothschild 22

8:30 – 9:30 AM **Opening Session & Framing of The Educational Seminar**

8:30 – 9:00 AM The Inside the Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives Congressional Fellowship is designed to equip Congressional Staffers with the knowledge and the tools to accurately analyze and decipher current events in the Middle East and successfully navigate future events in the region.

The program in its sixth year of operation, and its second year on Capitol Hill, consists of lectures on selected topics to provide the history and in depth understanding critical to interpreting the Middle East today, and real-time Middle East updates on current and evolving events.

ITME looks beyond Western media sources, narratives and explanations, and encourages participants to adopt a new critical lens for broader analysis.

The three-dimensional perspectives the program offers, the understanding of the connectivity of events, the motivation, interest and mindset of the players - plus the intelligence tools which are incorporated throughout the program, guarantee a better ability to accurately understand, analyze and contextualize regional events.

The ITME Congressional Fellowship provides US policy makers insight, knowledge, and understanding to effect a constructive, productive, and effective US policy in the Middle East.

The DC based component of the program was designed to build the database critical to understanding the contemporary Middle East.

The Educational Field Seminar builds on that database by zooming in on specific issues through meetings with outstanding Middle East experts and allowing participants to see things on the ground.

This opening session will be an opportunity to do a brief overview of the DC sessions to ensure participants get the most out of the Field Seminar.

9:00 – 9:30 AM As we learned in the DC Sessions, The Israeli Palestinian Conflict is one of many conflicts that make up the Middle East landscape.

The first two days of the Educational Seminar will focus on different aspects of the issue to help participants build a three-dimensional picture of the conflict.

Today will be an opportunity to hear from one of the foremost experts on the Israeli Palestinian conflict, and then to go beyond the headlines to meet Palestinians and Jews living in the West Bank.

Traveling through the region, seeing things on the ground - understanding the geography, the demography, the terrain, the communal fabric and societal structure is an essential component in building an accurate understanding.

Moreover, meeting and talking with people who live in the region provides personal and unfiltered access to the multi-dimensional picture of a complex reality.

Speakers: **Avi Melamed**, President & CEO, Inside The Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives

Jared Goldfarb, Tour Guide & Educator

Location: Rothschild 22 - 11th Floor

9:30 – 10:45 AM Current Local & Regional Perspectives on The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Dreams of a future of hope for both Israelis and Palestinians following the Oslo Agreement in the early 1990's quickly crashed; the conflict has further intensified. What are the major factors shaping the course of the conflict? What are the major characteristics of the inner political discussion within and amongst the sides? What can we realistically expect in the foreseeable future?

Speaker: **Brig-Gen. (Ret.) Dr. Shlomo Brom**, Head of the Program on Israeli-Palestinian Relations, The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)

Location: Rothschild 22 - 11th Floor

11:00 AM Leave Tel Aviv and Drive to Qalandia

11:00 – 12:00 PM Education-in-Motion – Build The Database

En Route Avi Melamed and Jared Goldfarb will build the database and lexicon necessary to understand the conflict.

12:00 – 4:30 PM What is it like to be a Palestinian living in the West Bank?

Who are the Palestinians? What motivates them? What concerns them? What are their daily lives like?

Speaker: **Rami Nafez Nazzal**, A Palestinian Educator and Founder of Beyond Borders Tours

12:00 – 12:30 PM Introduction to Palestine and Palestinian Society and Bus Tour to Ramallah

Visit Qalandia Check Point, the Seam Line Obstacle (Security Fence), and drive to the Business District / Downtown of Ramallah.

Rami will begin by introducing us to Palestine and Palestinian Society.

Visiting the Check Point, traveling from the check point to Ramallah, seeing the Seam Line Obstacle, and walking around Ramallah will offer an unfiltered opportunity to see things up close on the ground and speak to people.

Speaker: **Rami Nafez Nazzal**

12:30 – 2:00 PM Lunch Discussion with Dr. Khalil Shikaki – Insights Into The Inner Palestinian Dialogue

Developing a constructive and sustainable approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict requires an understanding of Palestinian society and the inner dialogue within Palestinian society.

This session will offer insight into that inner dialogue regarding including: the conflict with Israel; the impact of the Arab Spring and the increasing challenges of the Arab world on the Arab world's relationship with the Palestinians; perspectives on Fatah and the Hamas – Fatah relationship; differences in generational outlooks and perspectives on the conflict, Palestinian society, and more.

Speaker: **Dr. Khalil Shikaki**, Director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, Ramallah. He is also a senior fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University.

Location: Capers Restaurant | Al-Kuliyeh Al-Ahilyeh Street, Ramallah As'as Building, 7th Floor

2:00 PM Leave Ramallah and Drive to **Rawabi**

2:30 – 4:00 PM The City of Rawabi and its place within Palestinian Society

2:30 – 3:15 PM Overview and Tour the city of Rawabi

Rawabi is the first Palestinian planned city, providing opportunities for affordable home ownership, employment, education and leisure. The city features state-of-the-art infrastructure designed according to a masterplan prioritizing urban planning and environmental sustainability. Rawabi is tailored to provide a modern and comfortable environment in which to **Live, Work** and **Grow**.

3:15 – 4:00 PM The History and Future of Rawabi and its importance on Palestinian Society

Speaker: Mr. Bashar Masri

Bashar Masri, the visionary behind Rawabi, is founder and Chairman of Massar International. He also established the first private equity fund dedicated to investing in companies operating in Palestine. He was recently elected Chairman of the Palestine Development and Investment Company (PADICO) and regionally he leads several economically significant investment projects throughout the Arab world.

Location: Siroter, Q Center

4:00 PM Leave Rawabi and drive to Kfar Tapuach

4:00 – 4:30 PM Education-in-Motion – Summary & Q's and A's

En Route Rami will summarize the morning and take any questions.

4:30 – 9:00 PM What is it like to be an Israeli living in the West Bank?

Who are the Jews who live in the West Bank – which they refer to as "Judea and Samaria"? What motivates them? What concerns them? What are their daily lives like?

Speaker: David Ha'lvri, A Jewish Educator, Member of the Regional Council, Strategist, Author, and Talk Show Host

4:30 – 4:45 PM Drive from Kfar Tapuach to Ariel

4:45 – 5:15 PM Introduction to Jews and Jewish Society in Yehuda & Shomron

David will begin by introducing us to the Jews and Jewish society in the Yehuda and Shomron – which are the Biblical names of the West Bank.

Bus tour of Ariel

A thirty-minute drive from Tel Aviv, Ariel is one of the largest Jewish communities in the West Bank. The bus tour will offer the opportunity to understand the structure of the city, its demographic makeup, and impact on the surrounding areas – both Palestinian and Jewish.

Speaker: David Ha'Ivri

5:15 – 5:30 PM Drive from Ariel to Barkan

5:30 – 6:20 PM Visit the Community of Barkan

The Barkan community is a secular Jewish community in the West Bank with a Business Park with 120 businesses that employ Jews and Palestinians.

An important component of understanding the conflict – and to developing a productive policy is knowing the distances and the composition of the communities.

From Barkan looking to the west towards the Mediterranean Sea, participants will see Israel's largest metropolitan area - Gush Dan, including the city of Tel Aviv – as well as the Jewish and Arab communities that make up the landscape of this region.

Speaker: Chen Ben Lulu

6:20 – 6:35 PM Drive from Barkan to Mt. Gerizim

6:35 – 7:10 PM Briefing - Mt. Gerizim

Mount Gerizim at 886 meters above sea level (higher than Jerusalem) is one of the highest mountains in Israel.

From Mt. Gerizim, looking to the east towards Jordan, participants see the Jewish and Arab communities that make up the landscape of this region - including the city of Nablus, one of the largest Palestinian cities with a population of more than 50,000 people.

Having these two perspectives builds a holistic picture of the terrain, the geography, the demography and the landscape. All of this knowledge is critical to building a tangible understanding of the conflict and building the database necessary to offer practical arrangements that can lead towards a viable and sustainable long term solution which takes into account the needs and interests of Palestinians and Israelis.

In addition to understanding the distances, a key component to deciphering the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is to meet the people who are part of the conflict and who are impacted by the conflict. And this is not only Palestinians and Israelis. On Mt. Gerizim there is a Samaritan community. The Samaritans are a group in the Levant, said to have originated from the ancient Israelites. Today they are a tiny non-Jewish, non-Arab people caught up right in-between the two and struggling to maintain their own ancient heritage.

Speaker: David Ha'Ivri

Location: Mt Gerizim

7:10 – 8:45 PM Har Bracha

The Samaritan Village and an Israeli settlement, Har Bracha are situated on the same mountain ridge.

Have **dinner in the Har Bracha Winery**

Dinner Discussion with David Ha'Ivri – Insights Into The Inner Jewish Dialogue in The West Bank

Developing a constructive and sustainable approach to the Israeli Palestinian conflict requires an understanding of Israeli society and the inner dialogue within Israeli society. This session will offer insight into Israeli society's inner dialogue regarding among other things the conflict with the Palestinians; the issue of settlements; their relationship with the government; their relationship with the Jewish community; their perspectives on the future, and more.

Speakers: David Ha'Ivri, Yonaton Behar, and Nir Lavie

Location: Mt. Blessing Winery | 84 Mount Blessing

8:30- 9:30 PM Drive back to Tel Aviv

Education-in-Motion

En Route Avi Melamed and Jared Goldfarb will summarize the day and answer questions.

9:30 PM Arrive at Hotel

Overnight: Rothschild 65 Hotel | 65 Rothschild Boulevard, Tel Aviv | Phone: +(972) 3 - 767-7677

Monday, August 5, 2019

Subject: The Gaza Strip: Domestic and Regional Aspects of the Israeli – Palestinian Conflict

6:30 AM Buffet Breakfast is served

8:00 AM Depart Hotel and Dayan Center

8:30 – 9:30 AM Framing of Today and Reflections on Yesterday

8:30 – 9:00 AM This session will offer participants the opportunity to comment, reflect, and ask questions about the day with Rami in the West Bank and David in Judea and Samaria.

9:00 – 9:30 AM The second day of looking at the Israeli - Palestinian conflict will focus on the Gaza Strip.

The reality of both 2 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip as well as millions of Israelis is shaped by regional players as well a wide variety of underlying forces, processes and trends, and interests.

Today participants will learn who the factors are, and how and why they shape the reality in Gaza and in Israel.

Speakers: **Avi Melamed**, President & CEO, Inside The Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives

Jared Goldfarb, Tour Guide & Educator

9:30 – 11:00 AM Egypt: The Struggling Giant

This session will explore the role of Egyptian young generation vis-a-vis domestic economic and societal Challenges and the impact of the young generation on Egypt's political map and future.

Speaker: **Dr. Mira Tzoreff**, Co-Chair, Egypt Forum at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle East and African Studies. Research Fellow at the MDC, Lecturer, Department of Middle Eastern and African History at Tel Aviv University.

Location: Dayan Center

11:00 Leave Tel Aviv and Drive to Sderot

Education-in-Motion

En Route Avi Melamed and Jared Goldfarb will build the database necessary to understand the history of the Gaza Strip and its relationship with the State of Israel.

12:30 – 2:00 PM Gaza – Pawns on a Chessboard

Standing in Israel seeing almost half of the Gaza Strip participants will learn about the history of Gaza and delve how events in Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iran and the Sinai impact the Hamas leadership in Gaza and the lives of the Palestinians living there. The briefing will also explore how the ever-evolving alliances, allegiances and conflicts impact and influence Palestinian identity, the Palestinian narrative and ambitions, the Fatah-

Hamas relationship and the dynamic between Israel, the Palestinians and the Arab world.

Speaker: **Avi Melamed**

Location: Black Arrow Overlook

2:00 PM Leave Black Arrow Overlook and Drive to Lunch

2:00 - 3:00 PM **Lunch in Sderot**

Location: Hummus Shel Tachina | 51 Herz Street, Sderot

3:00 PM Leave Sderot and Drive to Hill

3:15 - 4:30 PM **The Underground Challenge: The Threat of Intrusive Tunnels**

In recent years Israel has exposed and neutralized border crossing tunnels dug by Hamas and the Islamic Jihad in Palestine (IJIP) leading to Israeli communities. This briefing explores the dimensions of that threat and the interceptive and defensive measures developed and applied by Israel.

Speaker: **Lt. Colonel, Yaron Buskila**, Former Head of the Tunnel Discovery Unit, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)

Location: The Lone Rider Hill

4:30– 5:30 PM **Tour of Sderot**

On the tour of the city of Sderot – less than one mile from the Gaza border and the largest city in the region, participants will learn about daily life in the areas surrounding Gaza, called the ‘Gaza Envelope.’

Speakers: **Avi Melamed**

Jared Goldfarb

5:30 PM Return to Tel Aviv

Education-in-Motion

En Route Avi Melamed and Jared Goldfarb will summarize the day and answer questions.

6:30 PM Arrive at Hotel

7:30 PM Meet in the Lobby of the Hotel and Walk to Dinner

8:00 – 9:30 PM The Phantom Empire: Social Media in the Middle East

In the ongoing debate within the Arab world over identity, path and direction, a new powerful player has emerged – the social media empire. Abolishing time and distance, social media compresses and escalates dramatic changes as witnessed during the outbreak of the events of the "Arab Spring."

This Briefing goes behind the scenes and will offer us insight into the inner-discourse of Arab world and the impact of the internet and social media on Arab society and the Arab world.

Speaker: **Dr. Michael Barak**, Team Leader of the Global Jihad & Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group, Team Research Manager of the Institute for Counterterrorism (ICT) Cyber-Desk, Researcher and member of the Social Media Networks in the Arab World (Beehive) research board at The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies (MDC) in Tel Aviv University (TAU).

Location: Ha Traklin Restaurant | Heihal HaTalmud St 4, Tel Aviv

9:30 PM Walk back to the Hotel

Overnight: Rothschild 65 Hotel | 65 Rothschild Boulevard, Tel Aviv | Phone: +(972) 3 - 767-7677

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Subject: **The Struggle over Identity, Path, and Direction: The Arab Gulf, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon**

6:30 AM Buffet Breakfast is served

8:00 AM Leave Hotel and walk to Mindspace

8:15 – 9:00 AM **Framing of Today and Reflections on Yesterday**

8:30 – 8:45 AM This session will offer participants the opportunity to comment, reflect, and ask questions about the day in Gaza or the dinner session.

8:45 - 9:15 AM For the last decade the Middle East has experienced an historical, political, cultural and societal tectonic plate movement that has resulted in a seismic shift of historical proportions.

The heart of that phenomenon is a massive corridor consisting of 160,000,000 million people that stretches all the way from Iran crossing through Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. At the core of that earthquake are issues such as national identity, political, social, and economic challenges, power struggles between ancient players, and competing ideologies. These core issues and others have joined together and coincide – and not by coincidence - in the beginning of the 21st Century to result in the huge earthquake that has shaken the Middle East to its core for the past decade.

What are those issues? Why do they coincide now? How do they shape the reality of the region and its people? What are the immediate and possible ramifications?

For the next three days – through on the ground Briefings and Closed Door Briefings, participants will zoom in and zoom out to develop a clear picture of the current reality which will help them accurately decipher current regional events as well as the future path, direction and outcomes.

Today's briefings will zoom in on some of the most important countries of the region that are at the epicenter of this seismic shift.

Speakers: **Avi Melamed**, President & CEO, Inside The Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives

Jared Goldfarb, Tour Guide & Educator

Location: Moshe Dayan Center

9:15 – 10:30 AM Iraq: The Land of Two Rivers and Multiple Identities

Iraq's contemporary history is a constant story of the struggle over identity, which reflects its complex, challenging political, ethnic and religious fabric. That struggle intensified following the downfall of Saddam Hussein and the ensuing growing Iranian influence on Iraq's domestic and regional policy.

Speaker: **Professor Dr. Amatzia Baram**, Director of the Centre for Iraq Studies at the University of Haifa, Israel.

Location: LABS, Tel Aviv Sarona Tower

11:15 – 12:45 PM Turkey: The Dream of Restoring Past Glory

Under the leadership of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Turkey has experienced a dramatic transition. Once a secular state, Turkey is turning into an Islamic Republic. Guided by a vision of restoring the glory days of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, Erdoğan leads a proactive regional policy striving to crown Turkey and himself as the leader of Sunni Middle East. However, in 2019 that vision faces significant – and growing – challenges and obstacles.

Speaker: **Dr. Hay Eytan Cohen Yanarocak**
Editor of Turkeyscope, Member of the Middle East Network Analysis Desk, Researcher at Jerusalem Institute for Strategic Studies and at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Research

Location: Moshe Dayan Center

12:45 PM Drive to Herzeliya Interdisciplinary Center (IDC)

Box lunches on the bus or at IDC

1:30 – 3:00 PM Iran – At The Crossroads

40 years has passed since the Mullah regime took over Iran. The revolutionary, ideologically-driven mindset and passion of the regime has translated both inside Iran as well as in the region into an aggressive policy, resulting in a dangerous and growing instability while the challenges inside Iran fuel the growing discontent of Iranians. Where is Iran headed?

Speaker: **Meir Javedanfar**, Research Fellow, Institute for Policy Strategy (IPS), Herzeliya Interdisciplinary Center; Owner and Editor, Iran-Israel Observer

Location: The Interdisciplinary Center Herzeliya

3:00 – 4:30 PM

The Arab Gulf – In Between Tradition, Conservatism and Openness

Though relatively, the Arab Gulf Monarchies have successfully outlasted the the “Arab Spring” and its aftermath, the Monarchies need to design a policy which effectively addresses their growing challenges while at the same time navigating between tradition, conservatism and openness. What does the future hold for the Arab Gulf Monarchies?

Speaker: **Dr. Yossi Mann**, Chairman of the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, Bar Ilan University; Research Fellow, Institute for Policy and Strategy (IPS) at the Herzeliya Interdisciplinary Center (IDC)

Location: The Interdisciplinary Center Herzeliya

5:00 PM Depart IDC for Tel Aviv

6:00 PM Arrive at Hotel

7:45 PM Take Bus To Dinner

8:00 PM Arrive at Dinner

8:00 – 10:00 PM Religion and Politics in the Middle East: Is there a Shift?

Islam is the religion of most people in the Middle East and throughout history it has played a central role in the shaping of the societies and politics of the region. The establishment of independent states in the region, hand in hand with the growing challenges of its people, generates a growing discussion regarding the nature of the relationship between Islam and politics. Are we in a transition phase?

Speaker: **Dr. Ori Goldberg** Faculty member of the Israeli National Defense College, IDC, Tel Aviv University, and other institutions. The author of Lachshov Shi'it (Thinking Shi'a), co-author of Understanding Shiite Leadership: The Art of the Middle Ground in Iran and Lebanon.

Location: Maganda Restaurant | 26 Rabbi Meir St., Tel Aviv

10:00 PM Walk to Hotel

10:20 PM Arrive at Hotel

Overnight: Rothschild 65 Hotel | 65 Rothschild Boulevard, Tel Aviv | Phone: +(972) 3 - 767-7677

Wednesday, August 7, 2019

Logistical Note: We are checking out... Please bring your bags down to breakfast

Subject: The Crescent of the Tectonic Plate Movement: From the Gulf to the Mediterranean

6:30 AM Buffet Breakfast is served

7:45 AM Bring bags to the bus to load the bus

8:00 AM Depart Hotel and drive to Tel Aviv University

8:20 AM Arrive at Tel Aviv University

8:30 – 9:00 AM Framing of Today and Reflections on Yesterday

8:30 – 8:45 AM This session will offer participants the opportunity to comment, reflect, and ask questions about the briefings the previous days' briefings.

8:45 – 9:00 AM In the second decade of the 21st Century the 20th Century Middle East disappears, and a new – yet at the same time old, Middle East emerges. On the second day of exploring the events that are reshaping the Middle East map, participants will once again zoom in and zoom out in order to build the database necessary to maximize the upcoming briefings on the Lebanese and Syrian borders.

Speakers: **Avi Melamed**, President & CEO, Inside The Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives

Jared Goldfarb, Tour Guide & Educator

Location: Tel Aviv University
The Senate Building

9:00 – 10:30 AM Syria - The Ruined Fortress

Syria - described as *Qal'at al 'urubah* the "Fortress of Arab Identity" is torn apart, ruined, occupied by a myriad of forces, and has become a stage for a massive power struggle involving both regional and global powers. How and why did this happen? What lies ahead for Syria?

Speaker: **Professor Dr Eyal Zisser**, Vice Rector and holder of The Yona and Dina Ettinger Chair in Contemporary History of the Middle East, Tel Aviv University and and a Senior Research Fellow at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies.

Location: Tel Aviv University
The Senate Building

10:45 AM Walk to the Institute of National Security Studies (INSS)

11:00 AM Arrive at INSS

11:15 – 12:45 PM The Shifting Landscape of the Middle East

This session concludes a series of sessions in which participants have zoomed in on the current core issues and arenas central to understanding the contemporary Middle East. Now it is time to zoom out and bring it all together.

This session will offer a cohesive, comprehensive view of the changing landscape of the Middle East. What is the current atmosphere in the region? What are the possible short term and long term developments? And what will the impact be of these developments on the region?

Speaker: **Brigadier General (Ret.) Itai Brun**, Deputy Director of Insitiute of National Security Studies (INSS), Vice President of Research and Analysis; former Head of the Intelligence Analysis Division at Israel Defense Forces (IDF)

1:00 PM Drive to the Israel – Lebanese Border and Lunch on the Bus

Education-in-Motion

The Middle East is a chain of many links – what happens in one region influences what happens in another. The past few days have built the database necessary to understand the contemporary Middle East. The next two days will be exploring the northern borders and seeing what has been discussed - on the ground.

2:30 PM Arrive at Rosh Hanikra, the westernmost point of the Israel – Lebanon border

2:30 – 7:00 PM Lebanon: From Paris to Tehran

Lebanon, an Arab state was once known as "The Paris of the Middle East." Today, the highway from Lebanon's International Airport to Beirut is named after Ayatollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. How and why has Lebanon changed its face so dramatically? These questions and many other will be addressed during lunch, and the ensuing Educational Intelligence Tour along the Israeli – Lebanese border.

Speaker: **Moran Levanoni**, Syria and Lebanon analyst on the Doron Halpern Middle East Network Analysis Desk (MENAD), Research fellow at the Truman Institute.

2:30 – 2:45 PM Introduction to Tour

Location: Rosh Ha Nikra

3:00 – 7:00 PM Educational Intelligence Tour of the Israeli - Lebanese Border

Lebanese Prime Minister, Saad El-Din Rafik Al-Hariri said "Lebanon was kidnapped by Iran and Hezbollah." That reality impacts Lebanon across the board and radiates negatively on its neighbors - Israel and Syria. Driving along the Lebanese border, participants will be able to see and learn about some of the ways Israel is influenced by this reality including: the struggle between Lebanon and Israel over offshore gas rights; Villages in Israel that Lebanon claims are actually in Lebanese territory; Hezbollah watchtowers on the Israeli border; and Hezbollah's border crossing tunnels. Everything participants see and learn today are the clear manifestation of Al-Hariri's statement.

3:45- 5:00 PM Lebanese Politics and Hezbollah on The Border

Location: Arab Aramshe

5:00 – 6:00 PM Drive from Arab Aramshe to Metula

6:00 – 7:00 PM Land Controversies

Location: Metula

Speaker: Moran Levanoni

7:30 PM Check into Hotel in **Metula**

8:30 – 10:00 PM Group Dinner and Summary and Reflection Conversation

Location: Ha Tachana | Metula

Overnight: Metula Travel Hotel | 52 Ha-Rishonim Street, Metula | +(972) - 4-688-3040

Thursday, August 8, 2019

Logistical Note: We are checking out... Please bring your bags down to breakfast

Subject: At the Edge of a Volcano – Syria

7:00 AM Buffet Breakfast is served

8:00 – 8:15 AM Framing of Today

On the third of the three days piecing together the reality of Israel's northern border and understanding the dramatic processes that are reshaping the Middle East and the global map, participants will continue to delve into Syria to gain an understanding of what is the current state of affairs in the country. But the scope today will widen to look at Syria's neighbors – Lebanon, Iraq, Iran to the east and south towards the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

What are the inner processes that are shaping Syria and her neighbors and how will that impact each country individually and the region as a whole?

Speakers: **Avi Melamed**, President & CEO, Inside The Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives

Jared Goldfarb, Tour Guide & Educator

Location: Breakfast Room of the Hotel

8:20 AM Board the Bus and Put Luggage on the Bus

8:30 AM Depart Hotel

8:30 – 9:30 AM Briefing & Border Tour: Beauty is Deceiving: Bordering Hezbollah

The view from Israel into Lebanon is breathtaking. However, external forces and inner struggles have wrenched this county for generations. Standing on the border we will delve deeper into the history of the country and the area, explore the major forces that play a role in this struggling country, see and understand the impact of the primary players including Hezbollah, Iran, and Syria on southern Lebanon and Israel and understand why the complex fiber of Lebanon and Lebanese society makes it fertile ground for continuing violence and chaos. It is against this backdrop that we will discuss the current atmosphere in the country, the impact on Israel's geostrategic posture, the future of Lebanon and the ramifications on the region. We will also have a close look at one of the the border-crossing tunnel dug by Hezbollah infiltrating into Israeli community of Metula.

Speaker: **Ofer Amos**, Chief Security Officer, Municipality of Metula and Chief Regional Military and Municipal Security Coordinator

Location: In the Moshav of Metula

- 10:00 AM** Depart Metula and Drive to the Golan Heights
- Education-in-Motion**
En Route, Avi Melamed and Jared Goldfarb will discuss the history of the human presence in the Golan Heights through the ages and the changing reality of the Golan Heights since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 until today.
- 11:30 AM** Arrive at **Ronen Overlook**, The Golan Heights
- 11:30 – 12:30 PM** **The War in Syria: Looking at a Volcano**
The war in Syria, one of the most significant events in the history of the Middle East, has been brewing for generations is ripping apart the fabric of the society and putting the future of the region in question. Standing on the border, 25 miles from Damascus, participants will explore the war in Syria, discuss the potential for the “Sinaization” or “Shiitization” of the Golan, understand the impact of Assad’s allegiances and alliances from the Russia to Turkey to Iran, and how the war impacts the region including Israel’s current and future behavior and outlook.
- Speaker: Avi Melamed**
- Location: Ronen Overlook**
- 12:45 PM** Leave Ronen Overlook and drive to Kibbutz Ein Zivan
- 1:00 – 2:00 PM** **Lunch at Pelter Winery**
- Location: Pelter Winey | Kibbutz Ein Zivan**
- 2:30 – 4:00 PM** **IDF Intelligence Base Visit**
Briefing by the Unit's Commander on the situation in the area under their jurisdiction, and an Introduction to the World of Combat Intelligence Gathering. In the Combat Intelligence component of the Briefing, participants will learn about the operational methodology developed and applied by the IDF in order to increase their capacity to be able to gather reliable, relevant and real-time combat intelligence in the face of growing and varying threats in the area of the Golan Heights.
- Location: Central Golan Heights**
- 4:00 PM** Leave Base and drive via the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem
- Education-in-Motion**
En Route Avi Melamed and Jared Goldfarb will summarize the day and answer questions.
- 6:00 – 7:00 PM** **Dinner**
- Location: Last Chance | Almog Intersection**
- 7:15 PM** Drive to Jerusalem
- 9:00 PM** Check into Arthur Hotel in Jerusalem
- Overnight:** Arthur Hotel | 13 Dorot Harishonim Street, Jerusalem | Phone: +(972)-2-623-9999

Friday, August 9, 2019

Subject: From Jerusalem to D.C.

7:00 AM Buffet Breakfast is served

8:00 AM Meet in the Lobby to walk to Harmony Hotel

8:10 AM Arrive at the Harmony Hotel

Location: 6 Yo'el Moshe Salomon Street, Jerusalem

8:15 – 9:00 AM Framing of Today and Reflections on Yesterday

8:15 – 8:45 AM This session will offer participants the opportunity to comment, reflect, and ask questions about the day in the Golan Heights.

8:45 – 9:00 AM As the educational seminar nears its end – the next two days participants will experience a mixture of geopolitics and understanding Jerusalem on a more personal level.

Speakers: **Avi Melamed**, President & CEO, Inside The Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives

Jared Goldfarb, Tour Guide & Educator

Location: Harmony Hotel, 2nd Floor Meeting Room

9:00 – 10:30 AM Reflections on US Policy In The Middle East

A retrospective and future analysis of the factors which shape US policy in the Middle East the Middle East and the Israeli – Palestinian conflict.

Speaker: **Professor Dr. Eytan Gilboa**, Director of the Center for International Communication at Bar-Ilan University, Senior research associate at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, Chair of Israel Communication Association. Expert on American-Israeli relations, U.S. policy in Middle East, American and Israeli politics, public opinion, communication, and public diplomacy.

10:40 AM Take the Bus to Yad Vashem

11:00 AM Arrive Yad Vashem

11:00 – 1:00 PM **Yad Vashem** was established in 1953 as the "National Authority for the Remembrance of the Martyrs and Heroes of the Holocaust" to commemorate the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators during the years 1933-1945. The vast campus of the memorial sits on the western edge of Jerusalem, and includes educational and training institutes for both teaches and students from around the world; historical, artistic and archival museums and galleries; as well as many powerful exhibits relating to diverse aspects of holocaust memory and narrative within Israeli society and identity. Our exploration will focus on the unique elements at Yad Vashem which, unlike any other holocaust museum in the world, combine the Jewish

people's commitment to "never forget" the tragedies that have befallen our ancestors, as well as create a dedicated space for Israelis to process these events, learn lessons from our experiences, and integrate these realities into our collective drive to move beyond the past and build a successful future as the Jewish State.

1:00 PM Depart Yad Vashem

1:30 – 4:30 PM Arrive at **Machane Yehuda Market** for Lunch on Own

Machane Yehuda Market. Known to Jerusalemites as simply “the shuk” (market), Machane Yehuda, also pronounced “Machne-Yuda,” is a sprawling buzzing network of alleys and vendors.

4:30 PM Leave the Hotel and walk to the Old City of Jerusalem

4:30 – 7:30 PM **Tour The Old City of Jerusalem**

The Old City is a walled area of roughly a half square mile, roughly divided into the **Armenian Quarter**, the **Christian Quarter**, the **Jewish Quarter** and the **Muslim Quarter**. The Old City is home to several sites of key religious importance: **Church of the Holy Sepulcher for Christians, the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque for Muslims, and the Western Wall for Jews.** We will tour the Old City, and we will learn about the centrality of Jerusalem in each of the monotheistic religions. Understanding how Jerusalem became a core theme in the narrative of Christianity, Islam and Judaism is critical to understanding the importance, the centrality, the sensitivity and the importance of Jerusalem in any policy related to the city, the Israeli Palestinian conflict, and the region.

Speaker: Jared Goldfarb

7:30 – 8:00 PM Visit the **Western Wall**, The Wailing Wall, Ha Kotel Ha Ma’aravi, the Kotel a wall that bears many names. At any hour of the day or night you will find dozens, at times hundreds, of people praying here, their heads bowed against the aged stones worn smooth from centuries of hopes and sorrows. The gamut of deeply felt emotions here is enough to touch anyone. No matter your religion - the sights and sounds of the Old City and the Western Wall on Friday night leave a spiritual and emotional impression which are another important layer of coming to grips with the complexities of Jerusalem.

8:00 PM Walk to Dinner

8:30 – 10:00 PM **Dinner: Questions and Answers**

This evening will be an opportunity for participants to ask Jared and Avi any questions they feel they need to further clarify from the DC Sessions, the Educational Field Seminar or anything else.

Speakers: Jared Godlfarb
Avi Melamed

Location: The Herbert Samuel Hotel | 25 Shamaï Street, Jerusalem

10:00 PM **Walk back to the Hotel**

Overnight: Arthur Hotel | 13 Dorot Harishonim Street, Jerusalem | Phone: +(972)-2-623-9999

Saturday, August 10, 2019

Subject: The beginning of a wonderful friendship...

7:00 AM Buffet Breakfast is served

9:00 AM Meet in the Dining Room

9:00 – 9:30 AM Framing of Today

9:00 – 9:30 AM Jerusalem is one of the most sensitive and controversial issues between Palestinians and Israelis. In depth knowledge of the city and the geopolitical complexities of the city is critical to any kind of constructive and sustainable arrangement in the conflict.

Today participants will travel through and around the city to gain a comprehensive understanding of the geopolitical reality on the ground.

Speakers: **Avi Melamed**, President & CEO, Inside The Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives

Location: Balcony of the Dining Room

9:30 AM Depart the Hotel

9:30 – 12:30 PM Geopolitical Tour of Jerusalem

When it seems like the Old City, East and West Jerusalem are in the palm of your hand, when in one glance you overlook The Anti-Terror Fence and Bethlehem, and when you can see Ramallah, Tel Aviv and the Dead Sea from the one spot you begin to build a holistic and comprehensive picture of the region and can better grapple with the issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Participants will delve into the complexity of Jerusalem, explore specific issues related to Jerusalem such as its borders, its geography, demography, political structure, strategic importance, etc.

9:45 – 11:45 AM The Holy Basin & Temple Mount

Location: Haas Promenade

11:45 – 12:00 PM Drive by US Embassy, the Bethlehem Passage and the Security Barrier

12:00 – 12:30 PM The Anti Terror Fence

Location: Gilo

Speaker: Avi Melamed

12:30 PM Take the bus back to the hotel

1:00 PM Return to Hotel to freshen up and finish packing

2:30 PM Depart Hotel, put luggage on the bus, walk to the Old City

2:30 – 4:30 PM Free time in the Old City of Jerusalem

- 4:30 PM** Meet the Bus and go to Jerusalem Ovelook
- 4:45 – 5:00 PM** **Overlook from Hebrew University Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem**
Throughout their time in Jerusalem, participants will have the opportunity to see Jerusalem from various vantage points to build a comprehensive understanding of the city – the topography, the demography, the structure, etc. This first view from Mt. Scopus looks at Jerusalem from the east. Jerusalem is a core issue in the Israeli – Palestinian conflict, and a comprehensive understanding of Jerusalem is critical for any policy intended to address the conflict.
- 5:00 pm** Leave Mt Scopus and drive to the American Colony Hotel
- 5:15 – 7:30 PM** **Concluding Session**
- 5:15 – 6:00 PM** Participants will fill out **Post Program Evaluations**
- 6:00 – 7:30 PM** **Summary of Educational Seminar**
- 7:30 – 9:15 PM** **Closing Dinner**
Reflections on the entire Inside The Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives program
- Speakers:** Avi Melamed
Jared Goldfarb
Everyone in the Group
- Location:** American Colony Hotel | 1 Louis Vincent Street, Jerusalem
- 9:30 PM** Board the Bus and Depart Jerusalem for Ben Gurion International Airport
- 10:15 PM** Our **Representative** will **meet the group upon arrival at the airport. They will escort** the group through departure airport formalities.

Sunday, August 11, 2019

12:20 AM **UA 73** Departs Ben Gurion International Airport, Tel Aviv for Dulles International Airport, Washington DC

5:50 AM **UA 73** Arrives at Dulles International Airport, Washington DC