



# ***ISRAEL MATTERS!***

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## **Ahmadinejad: 9/11 Was U.S. Plot to “Save Zionism”**

### **US - Saudi Arms Deal Will Anger Iran, Cheer Israel**

A massive U.S. arms deal with Saudi Arabia, reportedly worth \$60 billion, will calm Riyadh's fears of Iran by considerably expanding the capabilities of the kingdom's air force. The deal is sure to antagonize Iran at a time of high tension with the U.S. and will lead to a significant boost in the supply of even more advanced U.S. weapons systems to Israel, much to the chagrin of its Arab adversaries.

The package for the Saudis covers new aircraft, mainly fighter jets and helicopters, mainly built by Boeing. In the past, Israel opposed such massive military additions to Arab states on the ground they would undermine its technological edge, which the United States has pledged to maintain.

This time, it is believed the Israelis have been quiet because of U.S. assurances that Washington won't give the Saudis long-range weapons which could threaten Israel. More importantly, Israel, which has been restructuring its armed forces to meet the strategic threat of a nuclear-armed Iran, can expect a steady flow of advanced weapons, such as the new F-35 stealth fighter being developed by Lockheed Martin.

The arms deal demonstrates a convergence between the strategic concerns of the United States, Israel and the conservative Arab states in the Persian Gulf over Iran's nuclear and expansionist ambitions in the region. Moreover, there is speculation of other military aid from Washington to Israel, possibly as an inducement to Israel's right-wing government to push Obama's Middle East peace drive forward.



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, well-known for denying the Holocaust, used an address to the United Nations General Assembly to suggest that elements within the U.S. government were behind the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The Iranian leader put forward three theories of the attack, one of which was that “some segments within the U.S. govern-

ment orchestrated the attack to reverse the declining American economy and its grips on the Middle East in order also to save the Zionist regime.” “The majority of the American people as well as other nations and politicians agree with this view,” Ahmadinejad said.

The Iranian leader presented his usual diatribe against Israel, which he blamed for many of the ills in the world, but broke little new ground in this part of his speech.

The response to Ahmadinejad's remarks were viewed as likely to further isolate Tehran and convince the West of the government's radical tendencies.

“Ahmadinejad made himself look like a bigger extremist than before,” said Meir Javedanfar, a Tel Aviv-based expert on Iran. “In the long run, this is good for Israel because Ahmadinejad does a better job at portraying himself as a fundamentalist with little credibility than Israel could.” Ahmadinejad's theories about 9/11 are likely to add strength to voices in Israel who see Iran as an irrational actor that could attack Israel if it was armed with a nuclear weapon.

Although the U.S. State Department has for years identified Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism, Ahmadinejad announced he would convene a conference on terrorism next year. Iran arms and finances Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon which have stockpiled tens of thousands of rockets and missiles for use against Israel.

Despite four rounds of UN sanctions against Iran for hiding what most governments believe is a program to build nuclear weapons, Ahmadinejad also said he favored a nuclear weapons-free world.

In a speech preceding that of Ahmadinejad, President Obama noted: “Iran is the only party to the NPT (non-proliferation treaty) that has not demonstrated the peaceful intentions of its nuclear program.”

## Israel Rewards Nanny Who Saved Boy in Mumbai Attacks



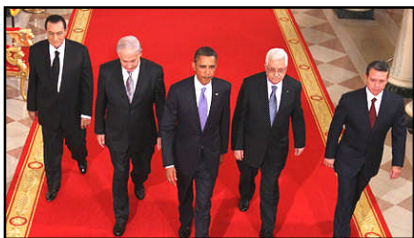
Israel has granted honorary citizenship to an Indian woman who saved the life of an Israeli boy during the November 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

Sandra Samuel found two-year-old Moshe Holtzberg standing by the bodies of his parents in Chabad House, a Jewish centre in the city, where she worked. Ms Samuel later escorted the boy to Israel where he has extended family and has been caring for him there since. Ms Samuel has now been granted the right to live in Israel permanently. She was also given a bravery certificate, which Interior Minister Eli Yishai presented to her personally.

Ms Samuel, a widow, gave up her life in India and left her two sons to move to Israel and continue caring for Moshe. At a news conference in which she showed off her new Israeli identification card (pictured), Ms Samuel said that the youngster was now helping her learn Hebrew: "Moshe teaches me Hebrew, and if I don't pronounce it properly, he keeps on repeating it, that I say it properly. He is a teacher now for me," she said.

## Media Accuracy, Cairo-style

The following is a photograph taken of President Obama and four Middle Eastern leaders (Mubarak [Egypt], Netanyahu [Israel], Abbas [Palestinian Authority] and King Abdullah II [Jordan]) at the White House for the recent start of peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinians. Note the position of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the far left.



Here is the photograph as it appeared in Al-Ahram, Egypt's official daily newspaper. For the Arab market, it is Mubarak in the place of honor ahead of the others.



## Russia to Deliver Missiles to Syria; Cancels Missile Deliveries to Iran

Russia has defied Israel and the U.S. and is going through with its sale of Yakhont anti-ship cruise missiles to Syria that could endanger the Israeli Navy. Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov said he rejects fears that Syria, a designated country that supports terror, will allow the missiles to fall into the hands of Hizbullah. "The United States and Israel ask[ed] us not to supply Syria with Yakhont," he told reporters during a visit to Washington. "But we do not see the concerns expressed by them that these arms will fall into the hands of terrorists."

Hizbullah used advanced Russian anti-tank missiles against Israel in the Second Lebanon War, causing heavy casualties and surprising Israeli intelligence sources that did not know Syria had facilitated their transfer to Hizbullah. Barak told Serdyukov of his concerns that the Yakhont cruise missile could endanger Israeli navy ships because of their range of 180 miles and their capability of carrying a 400-pound warhead while cruising only several feet above waters, out of the range of most radar systems.

Moscow's announcement that it will honor its 2007 commitment to sell the missiles represents a failure for Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak, who flew to Russia to try to stop the deal while also clinching Russian purchases of Israeli unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAVs).

Serdyukov warmed up to Barak, praising Israeli defense capabilities. "It is very important to us that in the transition to a new image, the Russian armed forces use the experience the Israeli armed forces have and the work they have done," he told Defense Minister Barak.

As a result of the missile sale to Syria, Israel is reconsidering a Russian request to buy advanced UAVs in line with a military cooperation agreement the two countries signed during Barak's visit to Moscow. Under the agreement, Israel would sell Russia 36 UAVs for \$100 million and is in talks about the establishment of a joint venture to manufacture Israeli drones in Russia in a deal that could be worth \$300 million dollars.

Israel had expected Russia to cancel the Syrian deal following Barak's visit to Moscow, which was considered successful by the Defense Ministry. "Russia's decision to go through with the deal puts future cooperation in doubt," one senior defense official said.

Separately, Israel expressed satisfaction with Russia's decision not to deliver its S-300 surface-to-air missile defense systems to Iran, which it had pledged to do in a contract signed in 2007. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev issued a decree prohibiting the delivery of the advanced air defense missile system to Iran. The ban also prohibited exports of tanks, aircraft, and sea vessels to the Islamic Republic.