

News from Israel

Jerusalem terrorist's father speaks at the UN: 'Israel is an executioner'

Mohammed Aliyan, the father of terrorist Baha Aliyan, who murdered three Israelis in the east Talpiot neighborhood in Jerusalem in 2015, took part in a UN Human Rights Council meeting on Monday as part of a Palestinian delegation of families of dead terrorists and security prisoners.

In the assembly, Aliyan spoke of the "sufferance" his family has undergone since his son's terrorist attack, due to the investigations and the sanctions imposed upon them by Israel. He also claimed Israel had executed his son. Since the attack, Aliyan Sr. has launched a campaign to glorify his son, and in the process he has become a symbol for Palestinians in general and in east Jerusalem in particular.

Among other things, he headed a group of terrorist families who petitioned the High Court of Justice demanding the return of the terrorists' bodies, and last year he lectured in dozens of Palestinian forums, including educational institutions and universities, praising his son's actions.

Six months after UNESCO approved a resolution denying Jewish ties to the Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat took ambassadors from the organization who abstained from the controversial vote on a private tour of the City of David.

The resolution, which refers to the Temple Mount solely by its Muslim name of Al-Haram Al-Sharif – ostensibly eliminating its connection to Judaism and Christianity – was approved by the committee comprised of 21 member states at its 40th session in Paris last October.

On Tuesday, March 21st, Barkat, David Be'eri, director and founder of the City of David Foundation, and Carmel Shama Hacohen, Israel's ambassador to UNESCO, showed the ambassadors the remains of the Shiloah Pool and numerous archaeological findings from the City of David.

"These findings strongly contradict UNESCO's claims that deny the historical connection between the Jewish people and the Christian world to the Land of Israel," said Barkat, who did not disclose the identities of the ambassadors.

PM Netanyahu is currently leading an Israeli delegation on an official visit to China. One of the primary purposes of the visit is to improve and strengthen economic and scientific ties between the two countries. Included in the Israeli delegation are Economy and Industry Minister Eli Cohen, Health Minister Yaakov Litzman, Science, Technology and Space Minister Ofir Akunis, and Environmental Protection Minister Ze'ev Elkin. Israeli and Chinese ministers and top officials have already signed ten bilateral agreements in health, science, education, environmental protection and other areas. Included in these is an agreement that will bring 6,000 Chinese construction workers to Israel in the next six months and a total of 20,000 in the near future. The hope is that these workers can help increase the construction industry's output and reduce prices.