**Press review October 7th to 13th 2024**

Slide 2

Israël is still reeling in grief a year after the October 7th terror attack in various kibbutzes close to the Gaza strip and at the Nova festival in 2023. To pay tribute to the people who died but also to the people who were made hostage, people gathered at the site of the Nova festival to honor their loved ones. The last tune played at the festival before the massacre was played and interrupted at the time the slaughter began, at 6.29 am. There are still 101 hostages who are held captive by Hamas.

In the USA, the day was considerd as a day of rememberance and rage, with new campus protests breaking outside of universities, including at Columbia University.

A surge in anti-semitic incidents (more than 10,000) but also in complaints about rising islamophobia in the US have been recorded in the last year.

Slide 3

Melania Trump released her memoir, in which the former first lady wrote: ‘Restricting a woman’s right to choose whether to terminate an unwanted pregnancy is the same as denying her control over her own body,’ ‘I have carried this belief with me throughout my entire adult life’. Her position baffled both sides of the political spectrum. The Trump campaign did not react immediately but then Trump stated that they had discussed things before the book was published and he had recommended to her to write what she believed in.

What do you think about such a PR strategy?

Slide 4

Vice President Kamala Harris has significantly ramped up her media appearances in the past few days. In the span of three days, she appeared on the popular “Call Her Daddy” podcast, CBS’ “60 Minutes,” ABC’s “The View”, “The Howard Stern Show” on Sirius XM and CBS’s “The Late Show With Stephen Colbert.” She went on what journalists have called an interview spree or a media blitz in an attempt to allow voters to get to know her better. In various polls and focus groups, voters said they did not feel they knew her or her policies well enough.

While some national reporters have complained that Harris was not doing enough interviews with “serious journalists,” she has appeared on shows with a wide and diverse audience whose members may not otherwise be watching major news networks, or reading Washington-focused publications.

Slide 5

A mandatory evacuation order was given in 6 counties across the Florida peninsula on Monday, with the mayor of Tampa dramatically emphasizing on the fact that residents / dwellers / needed to evacuate or die, in a prevision that Milton was going to make landfall as a category 5 storm with gusts blowing at 180 mph, in communities where debris from Helene had not yet been evacuated.

The evacuation caused major traffic jams when people took to the road to flee and find shelter. Pictures of long lines of cars stuck bumper- to-bumper on the main highways made the headlines.

The storm made landfall in Sarasota on Wednesday evening, pummeling Florida, devastating an area which was still recovering from Hurricane Helene, which tore through Florida’s western coast two weeks ago.

Joe Biden postponed his trip overseas to focus on the storm.

A satellite view of the Tropicana Field before (top) and after (bottom) Hurricane Milton, in St. Petersburg, Florida shows how the fabric of the roof was ripped to shreds.

Milton spawned a high number of destructive and unpredicted tornadoes which took people by surprise as they braced for heavy rain, strong winds, storm surges and floods.

Overall, the winds blew at 120 miles per hour in certain places, with gusts reaching 400 miles per hour in the storm center. Storm surges went up to 13 feet. In the eye of the cyclone, people who were there testified an episode of calm and warm weather.

The casualties had risen to at least 18 by the weekend.

Fortunately, the scale of the disaster does not seem to have been as bad as predictions had projected.

Slide 6

* FEMA controversy
* Surprise flooding in central Florida
* Gas shortage leading to people’s tempers flaring
* Many people’s livelihoods at risks as a lot of people were not sufficiently insured to be able to claim aid from their insurance companies to rebuild

FEMA controversy - Rumors, misinformation and lies about the federal government’s response to Hurricane Helene in the south-eastern United States have run rampant since the storm Helene made landfall, especially around funding by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Trump and his campaigners spread lies about FEMA stealing money from its budget to pay to help illegal immigrants rather than the people stranded due to the advent of two massive back-to-back storms.

These outlandish conspiracy theories have become worse in the wake of Milton, leading Joe Biden to answer Trump’s attack on the matter by urging him to ‘get a life’.

Senator Ron DeSantis refused to take Kamala Harris’s calls, which she called utterly irresponsible.

By the end of the week, millions were still without power and inundated by flooding. The predictions nonetheless did not come to fruition as the damage could have been much worse.

Slide 7

Trump’s statements of the week

* ‘This will be the last election’ (if Harris wins)
* Illegal immigrants are murderers with ‘bad genes’
* He vowed to rescue the city of Aurora (Colorado) from gangs thanks to mass deportations.
* He also said he would use death penalty against immigrants, whether legal or not, who had committed murder.

Slide 8

Cf slide

Slide 9

The UK will give sovereignty of Chagos Islands to Mauritius, with the UK/US military base remaining nonetheless on the island of Diego Garcia. This comes as a settlement of a 50-year-long dispute over the displacement of over 2,000 people from the archipelago in 1973. This will put a final end to British colonisation in Africa.

King Charles also said on an official trip to the Australian PM (Anthony Albanese) that a republic was ‘up to the Australian people’, which is likely to lead to the organisation of a referendum.

Slide 10

*‘Erik and Lyle Menéndez have been in prison since their 1996 conviction in the killings of their parents, José and Kitty, in 1989. The fatal shooting of a prominent entertainment executive and his wife in Beverly Hills, at the hands of their own children, captured international attention three decades ago – their first trial was televised by Court TV – and has reached a new generation thanks to social media and numerous TV dramas and documentaries.*

*The brothers have long denied the prosecution’s claims that they were driven by greed and a desire to inherit a multimillion-dollar fortune, and argued that they killed their parents in self-defense after years of sexual, physical and psychological abuse by their father.*

*Earlier this month, George Gascón, the LA district attorney, said his office would review new evidence and decide whether the case should be considered for resentencing or a new trial.*

*The new evidence includes a letter written by Erik Menéndez that his attorneys say corroborates the allegations that he had been sexually abused by his father.*

*The issue is not whether the brothers killed their parents, but their degree of culpability, Gascón said.’ (from The Guardian)*

Social media and streaming platforms have done a lot to keep the case in the limelight (a Netflix documentary / videos on TikTok / support from influencers such as Kim Kardashian), which might have played a crucial part in reopening the case.

Slide 11

Revered Indian tycoon Ratan Tata died at age 86

Alex Salmond, former First Minister and leader of the SNP died suddenly at age 69. He was very active in trying to lead Scotland towards independence, with an active role played in obtaining devolution of power to Holyrood, but also in organising the 2014 Scottish referendum, which led to his political downfall.

Slide 12



* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTujW80Ci3Q>

SpaceX completed its 'chopstick manoeuvre' by catching Starship rocket’s booster during descent. Starship is the biggest rocket to date and boosters for such devices generally land back in the ocean. This is a technological breakthrough in so far as it is a new step towards reusable rockets.

Critics say that all of these tests are already taking a heavy toll on the environment, leaving soot in the atmosphere, the effects of which on the planet are not yet known.

Slide 13

As every year, the Nobel prizes were attributed for physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, peace and economics.

Focus on the Peace Prize:

Nihon Hidankyo is the grassroots movement of survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. The prize was granted on the grounds that Nihon Hidankyo was to be rewarded “for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again”.

Photo 1: the A-bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Photo 2: first aid at Miyuki Bridge after the bombing in Hiroshima.

Slide 14

Cf slide

Slide 15

Cf slide

Slide 16

The most fluent version of the expression is ‘all good things come in threes’, which I did not dare to use in this situation ;-)

Who is Vem Miller?

A ‘Sovereign citizen’ member and potential 3rd would-be Trump shooter as he showed up outside Trump’s Coachella rally in California with false passports, unlicensed guns and home-made number plates on his SUV.

He claimed he would never harm Trump as he is a supporter.

Officials have suggested this may have been a “third assassination attempt” against the former president.