

## Leading Lady

GABRIELA SHALEV IS FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE AS ISRAEL'S U.N. AMBASSADOR

The United Nations General Assembly is set to begin its 63rd annual session later this month in New York. Leading the Israeli delegation is Gabriela Shalev, the Jewish state's first female ambassador to the United Nations. Shalev replaces Dan Gillerman, who served in the post since 2003.

"As a woman, a professor and above all as a proud Israeli, I am happy for the opportunity given me to contribute to the state in the complex international arena of the U.N.," Shalev said in a statement. "With the help of a small but high-quality delegation, I will work on a wide spectrum of issues in the fields of technological development, science and agriculture, and the rights of women and children, while at the same time caring for political and security issues."

Shalev indicated that her two top priorities are blocking the Iranian nuclear program and disarming Hizballah under the terms of Security Council Resolution 1701. However, she is expected to be confronted with a litany of anti-Israel resolutions in the General Assembly, which has historically been a forum for such activity. In advance of the opening session, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon assured Shalev, "Israel will receive fair treatment in the U.N. as a country like any other."

For the fourth year in a row, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is scheduled to address the General Assembly. Shortly after his first appearance in 2005, Ahmadinejad said that somebody in the audience told him he was "surrounded by a divine halo" and that the attention of all the world's leaders was focused on him. He also claimed that those attending did not blink during his entire speech.

This year, Ahmadinejad is scheduled to address the assembly on the same day as President Bush. •NER•

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# NEAR EAST

## Report

SEPTEMBER 16-30, 2008

AIPAC'S BIWEEKLY ON AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST POLICY

### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

#### Nuclear Row

Iran just received another warning that it cannot continue its illicit nuclear program with impunity.

The Treasury Department has designated the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) and 18 affiliated companies as "entities of proliferation concern" for aiding Iran's ballistic missile program. IRISL is Iran's largest shipping provider with more than 120 ocean-going vessels connecting Iranian exporters and importers with companies throughout the world.

"Not only does IRISL facilitate the transport of cargo for U.N.-designated proliferators, it also falsifies documents and uses deceptive schemes to shroud its involvement in illicit commerce," said Stuart Levey, under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence. "IRISL's actions are part of a broader pattern of deception and fabrication that Iran uses to advance its nuclear and missile programs."

The Treasury Department's sanctions are likely to significantly increase the cost of trade for Iran, as U.S. banks must now be circumvented. Also, all transactions between the designated entities and any U.S. person are pro-  
...see *Editor's Comments cont'd on pg. 62*

## Risky Business

ISRAEL GIVES THE P.A. ANOTHER CHANCE TO FIGHT TERRORISM

Late last month, the government of Israel released nearly 200 Palestinian prisoners and allowed them to return to the West Bank. Two of the discharged prisoners were terrorists serving life sentences for murdering Israeli civilians.

The prisoner release was part of a series of major gestures offered in recent weeks in what the Israeli government described as an effort to boost support for Palestinian Authority (P.A.) President Mahmoud Abbas.

As of late August, Israel had removed nearly 100 IDF checkpoints across the West Bank. Ten roadblocks were also dismantled



Photo by the Associated Press

**Palestinians celebrate the release of Said al-Atba, the mastermind of a 1977 bombing in Israel.**

in the Hebron area over the past several weeks. These steps, intended to ease Palestinian movement, pose serious risks to the Jewish state, as terrorists continue to plot attacks against it.

Israel—and the United States—expect the P.A. to match Israel's commitment to peace by undertaking "sustained, targeted, and effective operations" against terrorists, dismantling terrorist infrastructure in the West Bank and ending anti-Israel incitement, as called for in Phase I of the Road Map.

To this end, Israel recently allowed the transfer of about 1,000 rifles and thousands of bullets to Palestinian security forces in the West Bank. Israel has also approved the use of flak jackets and other  
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## Bipartisan Commitment

THE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES EACH APPROVED NATIONAL PLATFORMS ADVOCATING A STRONG U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP AND EMPHASIZING THE NEED TO STOP IRAN FROM ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

### Democratic Platform

For more than three decades, Israelis, Palestinians, Arab leaders, and the rest of the world have looked to America to lead the effort to build the road to a secure and lasting peace. Our starting point must always be our special relationship with Israel, grounded in shared interests and shared values, and a clear, strong, fundamental commitment to the security of Israel, our strongest ally in the region and its only established democracy. That commitment, which requires us to ensure that Israel retains a qualitative edge for its national security and its right to self-defense, is all the more important as we contend with growing threats in the region—a strengthened Iran, a chaotic Iraq, the resurgence of Al Qaeda, the reinvigoration of Hamas and Hezbollah. We support the implementation of the memorandum of understanding that pledges \$30 billion in assistance to Israel over the next decade to enhance and ensure its security.

The United States and its Quartet partners should continue to isolate Hamas until it renounces terrorism, recognizes Israel's right to exist, and abides by past agreements. Sustained American leadership for peace and security will require patient efforts and the personal commitment of the President of the United States. The creation of a Palestinian state through final status negotiations, together with an international compensation mechanism, should resolve the issue of Palestinian refugees by allowing them to settle there, rather than in Israel. All understand that it is unrealistic to expect the outcome of final status negotiations to be a full and complete return to the armistice lines of 1949. Jerusalem is and will remain the capital of Israel. The parties have agreed that Jerusalem is a matter for final status negotiations. It should remain an undivided city accessible to people of all faiths.

The world must prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. That starts with tougher sanctions and aggressive, principled, and direct high-level diplomacy, without preconditions. We will pursue this strengthened diplomacy alongside our European allies, and with no illusions about the Iranian regime.



### U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

• EXCERPTS FROM DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PLATFORMS •  
RATIFIED AUGUST 2008



Photos by the Associated Press

*At their national conventions, the Democratic and Republican parties affirmed strong U.S.-Israel ties.*

By going the extra diplomatic mile, while keeping all options on the table, we make it more likely the rest of the world will stand with us to increase pressure on Iran, if diplomacy is failing.

### Republican Platform

Israel is a vigorous democracy, unique in the Middle East. We reaffirm America's commitment to Israel's security and will ensure that Israel maintains a qualitative edge in military technology over any potential adversaries. Israel must have secure, defensible borders and we support its right to exist as a Jewish state able to defend itself against homicide bombings, rocket and mortar fire, and other attacks against

its people. We support the vision of two democratic states living in peace and security: Israel, with Jerusalem as its capital, and Palestine. For that to become a reality, the Palestinian people must support leaders who reject terror, embrace the institutions and ethos of democracy, and respect the rule of law. We call on Arab governments throughout the region to help advance that goal. We support Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel and moving the American embassy to that undivided capital of Israel.

The U.S. seeks a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, negotiated between the parties themselves, without the imposition of an artificial timetable, and without the demand that Israel deal with entities which continue to pledge her destruction. At the heart of any peace process must be a mutual commitment to resolve all issues through negotiation. Part of that process must be a just, fair, and realistic framework for dealing with the Palestinian refugee issue. Like all other elements in a meaningful agreement, this matter can be settled only on the basis of mutually agreed changes that reflect today's realities as well as tomorrow's hopes.

As a rogue state, Iran's leadership supports terror, threatens its neighbors, and provides weapons that are killing our troops in Iraq. We affirm, in the plainest words we can use, that the U.S. government, in solidarity with the international community, will not allow the current regime in Tehran to develop nuclear weapons. We call for a significant increase in political, economic, and diplomatic pressure to persuade Iran's rulers to halt their drive for a nuclear weapons capability, and we support tighter sanctions against Iran and the companies with business operations in or with Iran.

We oppose entering into a presidential-level, unconditional dialogue with the regime in Iran until it takes steps to improve its behavior, particularly with respect to support of terrorism and suspension of its efforts to enrich uranium. At the same time, the U.S. must retain all options in dealing with a situation that gravely threatens our security, our interests, and the safety of our friends. •NER•

# GUEST ANALYSIS

OLIVIER GUITTA, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COUNTERTERRORISM CONSULTANT

The Iranian-backed Lebanese terrorist group Hizballah has long been known for its war against Israel and deadly attacks against Jews in Argentina and elsewhere. Few are aware that Hizballah—which perpetrated the 1983 massacre of 241 Marines in Beirut—is also killing U.S. troops in Iraq.

Hizballah chief Hassan Nasrallah's ties to Shia militant groups in Iraq go back decades. As a teenager, he studied at the Shia seminary in Najaf, Iraq. It was then that he met the men who would help shape his life: Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (Iran's future Supreme Leader) and Ayatollah Muhammad Sadiq al-Sadr (the Iraqi Mahdi Army commander Moqtada al-Sadr's father).

The bond has lasted. In 1982, Khomeini's agents established Hizballah. And in 2004, Moqtada al-Sadr said he was "the striking arm of Hizballah" in Iraq. During the 2006 war in Lebanon, he offered to send members of his militia to fight Israel.

## Hizballah Has Planned Attacks in Iraq Since 2003

Hizballah has sought to turn Iraq into what Lebanon was in the 1980s—a chaotic country where foreign citizens are routinely kidnapped and suicide bombers terrorize the population. Nasrallah has explicitly

called for such tactics to be used against U.S. troops.

"We tell them that they will not be met in this region with roses, flowers, rice and perfumes," Nasrallah said in 2003, as American troops prepared to enter the country. "They will be met with rifles, blood, arms, martyrdom and martyrdom operations."

For years, Nasrallah has been preoccupied with Iraq. His efforts to organize terrorist attacks there began in April 2003 when Hizballah opened offices in the cities of Basra and Safwan. Top Hizballah commander Imad Mughniyeh reportedly traveled to Iraq to help organize the insurgency at Nasrallah's instructions. Most likely, Mughniyeh entered Iraq with the aid of Syria, trekking across its porous eastern border.

As the war progressed, Nasrallah continued his calls for attacks against American targets. In a July 11, 2006, speech—just one day before Hizballah triggered the Lebanon war—Nasrallah called on Iraqis to step up their "resistance" against U.S. troops. All the while, Mughniyeh, Nasrallah's military mastermind, was reportedly in and out of Iraq, supervising insurrection planning until his death in a February 2008 car bombing in Damascus.

## Hizballah Trains Shia Terrorists

Hizballah's ties to Iran have borne fruit for Tehran in its efforts to destabilize Baghdad.

In May, U.S. officials announced that Hizballah elements were training Iraqi Shia fighters at camps near Tehran and in southern Iraq. The camps are under the supervision of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp's elite Quds Force.

Three top Iraqi officials said last month that Hizballah was behind a slew of attacks against coalition forces in Iraq, including the January 2007 raid on a compound in Karbala that killed five Americans. One major piece of evidence of Hizballah's close involvement in Iraq was the arrest by U.S. troops in March 2007 of one of its top commanders, Ali Mussa Daquduq, who was on his fourth trip to Iraq to assess Hizballah's effectiveness.

In the 1983 bombing in Beirut, Hizballah conducted the deadliest single-day attack on U.S. troops since Vietnam. Indeed, before the 9/11 attacks, Hizballah had killed more Americans than any other terror group. Today, Hizballah is once again killing American servicemen, while training Iraqis to do the same. •NER•

Olivier Guitta, an Adjunct Fellow at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, is the founder of the newsletter *The Croissant* ([www.thecroissant.com](http://www.thecroissant.com)).

## HIZBALLAH'S OTHER FRONT

WITH IRAN'S HELP, HIZBALLAH HAS ITS SIGHTS ON U.S. TROOPS IN IRAQ

In Iran, the **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps** oversees Hizballah training camps for insurgents headed to Iraq.

Top Hizballah military commander **Imad Mughniyeh** was orchestrating attacks against American soldiers in Iraq until his death in Damascus in February.

In solidarity with Hizballah in Lebanon, **Moqtada al-Sadr** has said that his Mahdi Army is the "striking arm" of Hizballah in Iraq.

I R A Q

hibited, and any assets they have under U.S. control must be frozen. IRISL ships must be blocked if they enter U.S. jurisdiction. Ports that continue to service IRISL vessels could face sanction, and other ships using those ports could face increased scrutiny before entering U.S. ports.

While an important step, the sanctions must be followed by more intense pressure from our allies. Several affiliates of IRISL are located in Europe and Asia and should be closed by their host governments. In addition, foreign banks and insurance companies need to reevaluate the risks associated with continuing to do business with IRISL.

Tough U.S. and international sanctions remain the best way to persuade Iran to forgo its pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability. Iran continues to work to master nuclear technology, but has left itself extremely vulnerable to economic pressure.

U.N. and U.S. sanctions on Iran have already created difficulties for trade financing, discouraged foreign investment and adversely affected the profitability of targeted financial institutions, according to a recent International Monetary Fund report.

Until Iran verifiably suspends its efforts to enrich uranium—a key step toward producing a nuclear bomb—more sanctions are needed. Economic, political and diplomatic pressure must all be applied, and applied now, before it's too late. •NER•

## Standing Tall

### AN ISRAELI-MADE SUIT THAT LOOKS LIKE AN EXOSKELETON RAISES PARAPLEGICS OUT OF THEIR WHEELCHAIRS AND LETS THEM WALK AGAIN

A new Israeli invention is helping paralyzed people walk again. Something of a mix between the exoskeleton of a crustacean and the suit worn by comic hero Iron Man, the device, called ReWalk, helps paraplegics—people paralyzed below the waist—to stand, walk and climb stairs.

One of these new ReWalk users is former Israeli paratrooper Radi Kaiof, who was injured in 1988 while serving in the Israel Defense Forces. "I never dreamed I would walk again," Kaiof told Reuters. "After I was wounded, I forgot what it's like. Only when standing up can I feel how tall I really am and speak to people eye to eye, not from below."

ReWalk was invented by engineer Amit Goffer, founder of Argo Medical Technologies, a small Israeli high-tech company. "It raises people out of their wheelchair and lets them stand up straight," Goffer said of his contraption. "It's not just about health, it's also about dignity."

When Goffer speaks about dignity, he

understands all too well. He was paralyzed in an accident in 1997 but he cannot use his own invention because he does not have full function of his arms.

ReWalk, which requires crutches to help with balance, consists of motorized leg supports, body sensors and a backpack containing a computerized control box and rechargeable batteries. The user picks a setting with a remote control wrist band—stand, sit, walk, descend or climb—and then leans forward, activating the body sensors and setting the robotic legs in motion.

The ReWalk is now in clinical trials in Tel Aviv's Sheba Medical Centre, and Goffer said it will soon be used in trials at the Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute in Pennsylvania. Slated for commercial sale in 2010, ReWalk will cost as much as the more sophisticated wheelchairs on the market, which sell for about \$20,000, the company said.

To learn more about the ReWalk system, visit [www.argomedtec.com](http://www.argomedtec.com). •NER•

### Risky Business....cont'd from pg. 59

military equipment by the P.A. forces.

To its credit, the P.A. has reportedly confiscated tons of explosives and numerous firearms in recent months and has begun to take control of a number of major charities associated with Hamas.

At a recent Israeli cabinet meeting, Shin Bet head Yuval Diskin praised the improvement in the quality of P.A. security forces'

action against Hamas, but cautioned that the P.A. had yet to directly confront Hamas' military infrastructure in the West Bank.

Palestinian officials admit that when Hamas and Islamic Jihad members are arrested, they are often released from jail shortly thereafter. Therefore, even as Israel continues to pursue peace with its neighbors, the Jewish state's security forces remain on high alert. •NER•

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