



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending February 14, 2014

ISRAEL AND THE U.N.

Israel Joins Regional Subgroup at U.N.

Israel on Feb. 11 was admitted to a [key regional subgroup](#) at the U.N. for the first time. JUSCANZ is a regional consultative group to the U.N. Human Rights Council and other groups. JUSCANZ also plays an important role in determining representatives among the Western European and Others Group to the U.N. Security Council. "Israel's participation in the JUSCANZ caucus in the United Nation's Third Committee is an important step toward securing Israel's full participation across the UN system," said U.S. Permanent Representative to the U.N. Samantha Power. Power underscored America's commitment to Israel, saying, "The United States has long been a tireless advocate for Israel's full participation and inclusion at the UN... [We] will combat every effort to undermine Israel's legitimacy as a full and equal member of the community of nations."

IRAN

Treasury Publishes New Sanctions Evaders List

The Department of the Treasury announced [new sanctions](#) against 32 international entities and individuals for circumventing U.S. sanctions, aiding Iranian nuclear and missile proliferation, and backing terrorism. These actions target 18 entities and fourteen individuals operating in Turkey, Spain, Germany Georgia, Afghanistan, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Liechtenstein and other countries. One of the sanctioned individuals was an Uzbek citizen who Treasury said is a facilitator of an Al Qaeda network in Iran that operates with the knowledge of Iranian authorities. The penalties against the sanctioned parties include preventing them from conducting transactions with any U.S. citizen, blocking any property of the parties under U.S. jurisdiction and barring the parties' access to the U.S. financial system. Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David S. Cohen clarified that the United States will continue to maintain the vast majority of sanctions against Iran. "The global targets designated today play key roles in supporting Iran's nuclear program and active support for terrorism," Cohen stated in a press release. "The United States has made clear that as it implements the Joint Plan of Action, contingent on Iran satisfying its own commitments, the overwhelming majority of sanctions remain in effect and will continue to be vigorously enforced." This information is an update to the information contained in this week's [Sermon Tidbits](#). To subscribe to Sermon Tidbits, click [here](#).

Islamic Revolution chants 'Death to America' to Celebrate 35th Anniversary

Iran celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution on Tuesday, and the state news media said millions had exuberantly participated. According to [The New York Times](#), at the largest rallies, the talks on Iran's disputed nuclear program with world powers, including the United States, dominated the event, traditionally organized by

hard-liner factions that have shown strong skepticism about the negotiations. Iran contends it is pursuing atomic power for peaceful purposes, but many other countries, notably the United States and Israel, suspect its nuclear program is intended to camouflage the production of nuclear weapons. “We are eager for all options on the table,” many of the placards read, cheerfully hoisted by Iranian parents pushing baby strollers while shouting, “Death to America!” Other posters read, “We are ready for the great battle.” Many rally participants shouted, “Death to Sherman,” as in Wendy Sherman, the lead American negotiator in the nuclear talks. Some protesters also shouted, “Death to Obama!” and “Death to Kerry!”

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

Hamas can hit Tel Aviv, Jerusalem with dozens of rockets

[The Times of Israel](#) reported, Hamas has substantially bolstered its capacity to fire on Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and the rest of central Israel by investing heavily in producing their own M-75 rockets, with a range of 75 kilometers and more, and now have an arsenal of dozens of the rockets. They will have dozens more by the end of this year meaning that Israel could find itself forced to defend the heart of the country. It is not clear how effectively Israel’s missile defense systems will be able to deal with a launch of numerous M-75s in large, simultaneous barrages. During the eight days of Operation Pillar of Defense, in November 2012, only about 10 of the M-75 rockets were launched at central Israel and Jerusalem, so the current threat is seen as many times more serious. Hamas realized after Pillar of Defense that firing on central Israel immensely bolstered its prestige, and the Hamas prime minister was hailed as only the second Arab leader to have hit central Israel.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Tel Aviv University Launches Challenge That Will See Young Israeli Entrepreneurs Help Developing World

Innovations in the fields of health, the environment, education and technology are continuously improving the lives of millions in the developed world, but the benefits are slower to reach third-world countries. To make it easier for bright minds to access developing countries, Tel Aviv University yesterday launched the [Pears Challenge](#)—a competition for Israeli entrepreneurs that will provide training and support over three months for innovators of international development. The program’s scope will cover agriculture, water, health, renewable energy, education and information technology. “The fast-growing demand for tech in these fields is in the developing world, so there’s more and more opportunities for Israelis to move into these fields. Additionally, this program offers a chance for truly satisfying, meaningful work that can bring about a real change for people in need,” said Doctor Aliza Belman Inbal, director of the program. The competition, held annually, launched this week at the Google Campus in Tel Aviv.