

The week ending July 11, 2014

ISRAEL & THE PALESTINIANS

Fatah Joins Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Missile Launches

Armed groups linked to Fatah say they began launching rockets and mortar shells into Israel Wednesday evening, in the first indication of Mahmoud Abbas's movement actively taking part in violence emanating from Gaza. The [Times of Israel](#) reports that Mahmoud Abbas's spokesman, Nabil Abu Rudeineh, stated on Tuesday that Palestinians had the right to oppose Israel "by all legitimate means." Earlier, Fatah posted a video in Hebrew on its Facebook page from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades warning Israelis to flee the country, Palestinian Media Watch revealed. "Death will reach you from the south to the north. Flee our country without dying. The KN-103 rocket is on its way to you," the message read. Meanwhile, Hamas has begun broadcasting Hebrew messages on its television station Al-Aqsa, threatening to resume stabbings and suicide attacks "on every bus, cafe, and street." "Zionists, we can reach you above ground and below it," one of the clips warns.

Israel Allows Fuel, Aid into Gaza Despite Fighting

According to [Ynetnews](#), despite ongoing rocket fire at Israel from Gaza Strip, some 200 trucks of goods including food and basic products passed into Gaza from Israel's Kerem Shalom crossing with Gaza, the IDF said. Despite over 300 rockets hitting Israel, Israel has allowed some 200 trucks to cross into the strip, including some 200,000 liters of fuel daily, in an attempt to prevent a humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Meanwhile, the government said that over 20 Palestinians, including eight Gazan children were treated at Haifa's Rambam Medical Center, as part of Israel's longstanding cooperation with the Palestinian Authority. Rambam Health Care Campus provides medical care to patients from Gaza and the PA annually. Medical cooperation between Israel and the PA has continued despite the shooting. According to Yazid Falah, the coordinator for Palestinian patients coming to Rambam, "Despite the security situation, and despite the fact that both sides are fighting, all continues as usual in the sphere of medical cooperation." Rambam Health Care Campus treats hundreds of patients each year from the PA and Gaza, including 650 children and teenagers in 2013.

For the latest information on the situation in Israel please click [here](#).

IRAN

Foreign Ministers to Join Iran Nuclear Talks

[The Wall Street Journal](#) reports that foreign ministers from the six-power group negotiating a final nuclear agreement with Iran will step into talks in Vienna this week in an effort to break a stalemate and salvage a deal by a July 20 deadline. As the pressure

builds, signs of strains have emerged within the six-power group, with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius on Tuesday citing growing differences with Moscow over the talks. "There is an agreement which has started to be negotiated, but almost all the text is in brackets," Mr. Fabius told French lawmakers on Tuesday. "Arrival of higher level politicians is a wise strategy. At best, it can salvage the talks and at worst, it obviates the blame that failure was because of their lack of effort," said Ali Vaez, senior Iran analyst at Crisis Group, an international conflict resolution organization. "There is no guarantee that the foreign ministers' arrival could help break the deadlock, but it can't hurt either." However while they have avoided specifics, western diplomats are pushing for Iran to cut down its current nuclear program, with a senior U.S. official saying last month Iran's capabilities should be "a fraction" of its current levels. The issue is key because many western experts say that without reducing its nuclear infrastructure, including Iran's supply of centrifuges, there is no guarantee Iran couldn't move quickly to produce enough nuclear fuel for a bomb. On Tuesday, Mr. Fabius told parliament it was vital to try and maintain unity in the group but that "over the past few days, my representatives in the negotiations have seen a certain number of different approaches...between some of the P5+1 and our Russian partners."

ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS

World Cup Entangled with Mideast Conflicts

With the World Cup in faraway Brazil coming at a time of unprecedented sectarian violence and soaring tension in the Middle East, some Arab football fans have been reduced to watching matches in secret or even, and this is where it gets complicated, on a TV channel owned by Israel. Since the World Cup kicked off three weeks ago, Egypt's political divide grew wider as hundreds of people charged with supporting the ousted Muslim Brotherhood group were convicted of terrorism-related crimes — including three journalists for Qatar-owned Al-Jazeera network. According to the [AP](#), Qatar's media conglomerate owns broadcasting rights to the World Cup in the Middle East, charging viewers from \$110 to \$320 for a three-month subscription that includes the 64 World Cup matches — a tournament that should have been a welcome escape for millions of football fans. Watching a recent match in a cafe in downtown Cairo, 21-year-old student Mohammed Mostafa said his family is boycotting Al-Jazeera and instead tunes in to an Israeli channel that has been broadcasting the World Cup for free, with commentary in Hebrew — a foreign language to most Arabs. "Israeli media penetration into the Arab community is more devastating than its missiles," said Mohammed Shabana, the director of Egypt's Sports Writers Association. In the village of Ein Ibil, a man watching the Israeli channel with Hebrew — a language he does not understand — commentary blasting away said he neither cares about the ban nor the country broadcasting it to him. "I just want to watch the game," he said on condition of anonymity for fear of harassment. Ofir Gendelman, a spokesman for the Arabic Media in the Israeli Prime Minister's office, posted on his official Facebook page a dictionary of Hebrew soccer terms translated into Arabic. Back in the West Bank, Palestinians flipped onto Hebrew-language channels to watch the World Cup, despite escalating violence in Gaza. Hudaifa Srour, who lives in the West Bank village of Naalin, said most people don't care what language the commentators are speaking. "Our people are eager to escape the political problems, so even those who are not interested in sports, watch the World Cup," Srour said.