



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending July 4, 2014

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

U.S. says Hamas Involved, if not Responsible, for Fate of Israel's Lost Boys

According to [The Jerusalem Post](#), the United States confirmed on Tuesday it has strong evidence that Hamas is culpable, if not directly responsible, for the kidnapping and killing of three Israeli youths. State Department deputy spokeswoman, Marie Harf, told reporters that the U.S. is intimate with intelligence on the case, in part since one of the dead teenagers was American. "There are many indications as part of this investigation that Hamas may have been involved," Harf said. "I am not at this point saying they were responsible." Harf noted that Hamas has praised the kidnapping, which gripped Israel over 18 days as security forces searched for the boys. The U.S. government lists Hamas as a terrorist organization. In an evening statement on Monday, after the U.S. formally notified next of kin of the death of dual Israeli-U.S. citizen Naftali Fraenkel, U.S. President Barack Obama walked a careful line, expressing empathy as a father, fury as an American and caution as a leader familiar with the nature of spiraling crises in the Middle East. "As a father, I cannot imagine the indescribable pain that the parents of these teenage boys are experiencing," Obama said. "The United States condemns in the strongest possible terms this senseless act of terror against innocent youth."

America Mourns with Israel: U.S. Leaders Voice Support

President Obama and lawmakers across party lines have strongly condemned the murder of the three boys and expressed their condolences to the people of Israel. "As the Israeli people deal with this tragedy, they have the full support and friendship of the United States," Obama added. Secretary of State John Kerry called the news "simply devastating." "We condemn this despicable terrorist act in the strongest possible terms. The killing of innocent youths is an outrage beyond any understanding or rationale, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice," Kerry said. On Capitol Hill, the murders elicited unified condemnation, as well as strong support for Israel during its period of mourning. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), stated, "I cannot imagine the pain their families are experiencing. Violence of this kind is indefensible. I stand with Israel as I condemn this senseless act of terrorism," he said. "Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, expressed similar sentiments. "Our nation's thoughts and prayers are with the families of Naftali Frenkel, Eyal Yifrach and Gilad Shaar. Naftali Frankel was a dual U.S.-Israeli citizen. The killers must be held accountable," he said. In a joint statement, Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Ted Deutch (D-FL), the chair and ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, expressed their condolences to the people of Israel. "We will continue to support the government of Israel in its efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice, and we offer the people of Israel our deepest and most heartfelt condolences as we grieve with them," Ros-Lehtinen and Deutch said, "If it is determined that Hamas is behind this horrific tragedy, Abu Mazen must

immediately break up the unity agreement between Fatah and Hamas, a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization," they added.

This piece comes from AIPAC's Near East Report to read the full article click [here](#).

IRAN

Iran says it will not 'kneel' as Nuclear Talks enter Crunch Time

[Reuters](#) reports that Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif took to YouTube on Wednesday to deliver a message that Iran was ready to take steps to ensure its nuclear program remains peaceful, but would not "kneel in submission" to do a deal with major powers. As talks to resolve the long-running nuclear standoff resumed in Vienna, Zarif's remarks, delivered in English in a slick five-minute video, appeared to be a response to a U.S. warning that Tehran has yet to prove that its atomic ambitions are peaceful. The statements highlighted how much work the negotiators from Iran and from the United States, France, Germany, Britain, China and Russia still have to do to meet a self-imposed deadline of July 20. The sixth round of talks since February between Iran and the six powers formally gets under way in Vienna on Thursday morning, and on Wednesday Zarif met with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State William Burns and European Union foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, the six powers' lead negotiator, a U.S. official said. Washington and some of its allies have imposed sanctions on Iran over suspicions that its nuclear program is designed to produce weapons - a charge denied by Iran, which says it is only interested in producing electricity and other peaceful projects. "We will not accept a deal at any price," British Foreign Secretary William Hague said in a statement. "A deal that does not provide sufficient assurances that Iran will not develop a nuclear weapon is not in the interests of the UK, the region or the international community."

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Starbucks puts Israeli Phone Charging Tech in Shops

Tables in Starbucks coffee shops are to be outfitted with Israeli-developed Powermat charging pad technology, where customers can place their compatible devices and charge them wirelessly. As reported by [The Times of Israel](#), Powermat pads have already been installed in some Starbucks location in San Jose and Boston, with more locations to be outfitted during the coming months, first in the U.S., and then in Europe and Asia. The Powermats are being marketed by battery manufacturer Duracell, a subsidiary of Procter & Gamble which partnered with the Israeli company in 2011 to market the technology in the U.S. It's just one of many partnerships Powermat has entered into with U.S. giants. In 2011, the company made a deal with General Motors to include Powermat technology in Chevy Volt electric car models. In 2012 Powermats began appearing in airports in Chicago, Aspen, Omaha and Toronto, where they give users the ability to recharge their devices in airports that are usually sparsely outfitted with electrical outlets. Powermat advertises its pads as providing "wireless power" to charge devices, but it doesn't pull electrical charges from the air. The Powermat pad needs to be plugged into a normal power source, but the devices themselves can be recharged by laying them on the charging pad. The pads employ electromagnetic induction, which uses magnetic fields to produce electricity which can then be transferred to a device without wires. The pads are low-power (5 to 50 watts), so users can lay down not only their devices, but their coffee cups as well, with no negative consequences. Up to six devices can be charged on a pad that is connected to a single electricity source, Powermat says.