

The week ending November 7, 2014

U.S. - ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

U.S. Leaders Condemn Recent Jerusalem Car Attack

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry condemned the November 5 terrorist attack in Jerusalem calling it an "atrociousness." "I condemn today's terrorist act of somebody driving in another car into innocent people standing on the roadside," stated Kerry while meeting in Paris with Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh. In the attack, the second in Jerusalem in less than two weeks, a Palestinian driver slammed his car into a crowded light rail platform. The attack killed Israeli border police officer Jidan Assad and wounded 14 others. Assad, 38, leaves behind a pregnant wife and toddler. "There are those who oppose peace, and people need to not allow those who oppose peace to control what is happening in the region," Kerry said. "The peacemakers need to control it, and they need to take steps to begin to move in a different direction." Congresswoman and Ranking Member on the House Appropriations Committee Nita Lowey (D-NY) also condemned the attack. "The recent escalation of violence in Jerusalem is deplorable. There is never cause or justification for turning to terrorism, and the perpetrators of such heinous attacks must be condemned - not hailed as a martyrs or heroes," said Lowey. "Instead of calls for incitement and continued violence, the Palestinian Authority must take immediate steps to quell tensions and work to protect innocent civilians throughout the city."

U.S.-Israel Inaugurate F-35 Wing Production Facility

Demonstrating the continued strength of their partnership, The United States and Israel inaugurated a joint production facility to manufacture wings for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter on November 4. In a speech at the new wings factory at the Israel Aerospace Industries' (IAI) campus near Tel Aviv, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon described the U.S. as Israel's greatest friend, saying the relationship was "bulletproof." "This is the time to say it again, in a loud and clear voice: The deep ties between the U.S. and Israel are stronger than any division. An argument, as harsh as it may be, will not darken relations between the countries and the gratitude felt by Israelis to the U.S. and its role in our defense and power," said Ya'alon. As part of the project, state-owned IAI has arranged to produce over 800 sets of F-35 wings for use by the U.S. Air Force, the Israeli Air Force, and other future export customers. Elbit Systems of America, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Israel's Elbit Systems, has teamed with American defense manufacturer Rockwell Collins to produce the Helmet Mounted Display System (HMDS) for the F-35. The system will provide pilots with an unprecedented 360 degree situational awareness. Lockheed Martin's Vice President of international programs Susan Ouzts projected that Israel's contribution to the F-35 project will be worth \$4 billion. IAI expects to produce more than 800 F-35 wings by 2030 with the first set of wings scheduled for delivery to Lockheed Martin by the middle of 2015. Israel has purchased 19 F-35s with deliveries expected to begin in 2016.

IRAN

IAEA report to highlight slow headway in Iran nuclear investigation

A U.N. watchdog report this week is expected to show little progress in an investigation into suspected nuclear weapons research by Iran, diplomats said on Wednesday, a potential sticking point in six world powers' diplomacy with Tehran. According to [Reuters](#), the quarterly report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Iran's nuclear programme, due on Thursday or Friday, is likely to say that Iran has still not provided information that it was supposed to do more than two months ago. The confidential document will be issued to IAEA member states less than three weeks before a self-imposed Nov. 24 deadline for Iran and the global powers to end a decade-old standoff over the Islamic Republic's atomic activities. While the six want Iran to scale back its uranium enrichment programme - and thereby lengthen the timeline for any covert bid to assemble nuclear arms - the IAEA is investigating allegations of past research on how to make the bomb itself. Iran rejects Western accusations that it has been seeking to develop a nuclear weapons capability as baseless. Western officials say Iran must step up cooperation with the IAEA to help clarify its long-standing concerns as part of a diplomatic settlement, suggesting that some of the relief from sanctions the oil-producing country wants will depend on this. The gradual process of phasing out such punitive measures would maintain pressure on Tehran also after any deal is struck. Iran has promised since Hassan Rouhani, seen as a pragmatist, became president last year to work with the IAEA. But it failed to address two specific areas of the U.N. agency's inquiry by Aug. 20, as it had agreed to do, diplomats said. "What is needed now is concrete action on the part of Iran to resolve all the outstanding issues," IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano said in Washington last week, adding that progress in recent months had been limited.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Could an Israeli-created innovation end world hunger?

Between a third and half of the food grown today never makes it to market. Produce of all kinds is "lost" to spoilage and disease, due mostly to transportation, storage, and other logistics issues. As a result, hundreds of millions of people still go hungry—but according to [The Times of Israel](#) they don't have to, thanks to an invention by Israel's Pimi Agro. By applying a formula based on hydrogen peroxide—"with a few key additions," said Nimrod Ben-Yehuda, CTO and co-founder of Pimi—fruits and vegetables remain fresh and viable for up to 10 weeks, significantly cutting losses due to rot and deterioration during the transportation process. Technology like this, he believes, could make a major dent in world hunger. In the coming months, Pimi plans to introduce these inventions to the United Nations and other international institutions. "We see this technology as something that can really help to alleviate world hunger, and we plan to submit a report to the UN, the World Bank, and other international groups, showing how wide-scale deployment of our methods could help feed many more people," he said. "The world – especially the developing world – loses half of what it grows to rot and disease. More produce means more food to feed hungry people, and our methods don't require the deployment of dangerous chemicals or expensive and questionable genetic reformulations of fruits and vegetables. With our products, we believe there will be enough to go around to make a real dent in world hunger."