

The week ending September 12, 2014

U.S. - ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Israel, US test improved Arrow 2 missile interceptor

According to [The Times of Israel](#), Israel and the US Missile Defense Agency tested an improved Arrow 2 anti-ballistic missile at an Israeli test range over the Mediterranean Sea Tuesday, the Defense Ministry said in a statement. “An Arrow 2 missile was launched and performed its flight sequence as planned. The results are being analyzed by program engineers,” the statement read. Defense Ministry spokesperson Jonathan Mosery said that the Arrow 2 system, which has been operational for years and is intended for use against long-range threats, “like Iron Dome, undergoes ongoing improvements” to software and hardware and other components. Israel is in the process of developing a five-tiered system of air defense, offering protection against projectiles ranging from mortars to ballistic weapons. Of the two operational systems, only Iron Dome has been used in combat. Defending against short-to-mid-range rockets, it intercepted roughly 90 percent of its targeted projectiles during Operation Protective Edge, according to figures released by the army. The other three systems—Iron Beam, David’s Sling, and Arrow 3—are expected to become operational within the coming two years. The Arrow 2 was rolled out in March 2000. “This is a great day for the Air Defense Forces, for the Air Force, the defense establishment and, I would say, for the State of Israel,” Maj. Gen. Eitan Ben Elياهو said at the time. He called the Arrow 2 “the only weapon system of its kind in the entire world,” adding that Israel is the first country to “succeed in developing, building and operating a defense system against ballistic missiles.” Tuesday’s test, the Defense Ministry said, has no bearing “on the Israeli operational systems.’

For more information on U.S. – Israel cooperation please click [here](#).

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

After Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, Palestinian unity government on rocks

The reconciliation agreement signed in April between Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, and Fatah, which has the majority of its support in the West Bank was supposed to bring about a shared government under the umbrella of the Palestine Liberation Organization. But it didn’t work out that way, reports [The Washington Post](#). Just three months after its creation, analysts say, the technocratic government based in the West Bank city of Ramallah appears on the verge of collapse. At a news conference in Cairo on Saturday, Abbas threatened to dissolve the unity government, accusing Hamas of running a “shadow government” in Gaza. Abbas “hasn’t been there in seven years,” Mkhaimar Abusada, a political science professor at Al-Azhar University in Gaza said. “He hasn’t made one trip, not one.” But in April, the two factions announced a

reconciliation deal, killing the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. “This evening, as peace talks were about to take place, Abbas chose Hamas and not peace,” read a statement released by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office. “Whoever chooses Hamas does not want peace.” Israeli’s domestic intelligence agency announced [that] it had uncovered a Hamas plot to ignite an uprising in the West Bank and depose the Palestinian Authority. The alleged evidence: dozens of interviews with arrested Hamas operatives in the West Bank, and the seizure of rockets, rifles and more than \$170,000.

SYRIA

Israel will cooperate with U.S. in fight against IS, envoy says

United States Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro expressed confidence Thursday that Israel and the U.S. could work together in the fight against the Islamic State jihadist group. “There is no doubt that every nation has something to contribute to this effort, including Israel,” Shapiro told [The Times of Israel](#). Shapiro also said that “we will make an effort to arrange a meeting between [President Barack Obama] and [Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu] during his visit to the U.S.” after the Jewish New Year. On Wednesday, Obama called for a “systematic campaign of airstrikes, hitting IS targets as Iraqi forces go on the offensive.” Obama also said the U.S. would work with allies, including Sunni Arab states in the region, to “degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL through a comprehensive and sustained counter-terrorism strategy.” Defense Minister Moshe Ya’alon on Tuesday called for world intelligence agencies to work together against the Islamic State jihadist group.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Women Entrepreneurs Are More Successful Than Men In Crowdfunding Campaigns

Numerous studies have shown that women have a harder time than men engaging in entrepreneurship or business investing. Women also launch firms with significantly less capital than men, which limits their ability to grow their firms and increases their risk of financial distress in periods of adversity. Now, according to [No Camels Israeli Innovation News](#), new research from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem shows that crowdfunding could level the playing field for women wishing to raise capital for their ventures and in some cases even give them an advantage. Crowdfunding is a recent form of fundraising that involves financing projects or ventures by raising small amounts of money from many people, usually via the Internet. To investigate whether crowdfunding could reduce the barriers of female entrepreneurs to raise capital, the researchers analyzed data from Kickstarter, one of the world’s leading crowdfunding platforms, that included 13,533 entrepreneurs classified by gender, 898,491 investors classified by gender, and investments totaling over 120 million dollars, from April 2009 through March 2012. They documented that women enjoyed a 69.5 percent success in getting funded versus 61.4 percent for men. According to the Hebrew University’s Prof. Orly Sade, “These findings indicate that the increasing prevalence of crowdfunding platforms may lead to increased participation of women as investors, and to an increase in the flow of capital to projects led by women.”