



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending July 17, 2015

IRAN

AIPAC Statement on Proposed Iran Nuclear Agreement

AIPAC has consistently supported diplomatic efforts to end Iran's nuclear weapons program, and we appreciate the commitment and dedication of President Obama and his administration throughout these negotiations. Unfortunately, this proposed agreement fails to halt Iran's nuclear quest. During these negotiations, we outlined criteria for a good deal that Congress itself had set in five critical areas: inspections, possible military dimensions, sanctions, duration, and dismantlement. In each of these areas, the proposed agreement has significant flaws:

- The proposed deal does not ensure "anytime, anywhere" short-notice inspections;
- The proposed deal does not clearly condition sanctions relief on full Iranian cooperation in satisfying International Atomic Energy Agency concerns over the possible military dimensions of Tehran's program;
- The proposed deal lifts sanctions as soon as the agreement commences, rather than gradually as Iran demonstrates sustained adherence to the agreement;
- The proposed deal lifts key restrictions in as few as eight years;
- The proposed deal would disconnect and store centrifuges in an easily reversible manner, but it requires no dismantlement of centrifuges or any Iranian nuclear facility.

[Click here to view the full AIPAC Statement on Proposed Iran Nuclear Agreement](#)

Netanyahu Tells Obama Iran deal Threatens Israel's Security

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told U.S. President Barack Obama on Tuesday that Israel was concerned over the nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers, reports [Ha'aretz](#). In a phone conversation, Netanyahu said the deal threatens the security of Israel and of the entire world. "Prime Minister Netanyahu stressed that an examination of the agreement raises two major dangers," the Prime Minister's Office said. "The agreement will allow Iran to arm itself with nuclear weapons either after adhering to the agreement for 10-15 years, or by violating it beforehand. In addition, [the deal] will pump billions of dollars to the Iranian terror and war machine, which threatens Israel and the entire world." During the conversation with Netanyahu, Obama stressed his administration's commitment to Israel's security.

Senators' Balk at U.N. Action on Iran

President Obama should not go to the United Nations with a proposal to lift sanctions on Iran before Congress acts, said Sen. Ben Cardin (Md.), the senior Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Cardin said the administration should not move forward with a proposal to draft a new U.N. resolution affecting international sanctions until lawmakers have a chance to review the nuclear deal, which was unveiled this week. Samantha Power, U.S. ambassador to the U.N., on Wednesday circulated a draft resolution that would end international sanctions on

Iran once the International Atomic Energy Agency verifies its compliance with a deal curbing its nuclear program. Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) said he told Power the action is inappropriate. According to [The Hill](#), Corker and Cardin sent a letter to Obama Thursday urging him to postpone a U.N. vote. "We are deeply concerned that your administration plans to enable the United Nations Security Council to vote on the agreement before the United States Congress can do the same," they wrote.

Members of Congress React to Iran Deal

After 20 months of nuclear negotiations, Iran and the P5+1 have reached a nuclear agreement. Below are two congressional reactions, [click here for more](#).

Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ):

"This is an opportunity for Congress to exert its responsibility to review the agreement and I look forward to thoroughly analyzing the details when submitted because, in this case, how it is written has enormous consequences. But I'm concerned that the deal ultimately legitimizes Iran as a threshold-nuclear state. I'm concerned the redlines we drew have turned into green-lights; that Iran will be required only to limit rather than eliminate its nuclear program, while the international community will be required to lift the sanctions, and that it doesn't provide for anytime-any-place inspections of suspected sites. The bottom line is: The deal doesn't end Iran's nuclear program—it preserves it."

Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL):

"I am gravely concerned that the nuclear agreement will condemn the next generation to living with an Iranian nuclear power in the Persian Gulf and ultimately endanger the security of the United States, Israel, and other regional allies over the long term... This agreement will enrich and empower Iran, the world's foremost sponsor of terrorism, because it will dismantle the international sanctions regime against Iran, give Iran back over \$100 billion in frozen assets, and lift a U.N. arms embargo that has banned Iran from buying and selling conventional weapons and ballistic missiles."

Ari Shavit: Five Reasons to Worry About the Iran Deal

The first cause for concern is nuclear proliferation, reports Ari Shavit in an editorial in [Ha'aretz](#). The international community's greatest achievement over the past 70 years has been its ability to control the nuclear demon. If it turns out that the Vienna accord is vague and the monitoring mechanisms can't be enforced, the world will be a different world, the Middle East will become a terrible Middle East, and a giant shadow will loom over Israel's future. The second cause for concern is the expansion of conventional weapons. Iran, even when it stood on the brink of bankruptcy, built its own defense industry. The injection of tens of billions of dollars into Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's R&D labs and assembly lines could introduce a semi-existential threat by conventional weapons. The third cause for concern is regional hegemony. The legitimacy, honor and leverage the Vienna agreement gives Tehran will let it double this victory and impose fear on the Middle East. The fourth reason for concern is the lack of ideological conversion. Pro-Israeli elements in Washington recently demanded that Iran recognize Israel. However, Iran does not even recognize the United States; American flags are burned in Tehran. Iran has received economic salvation and international legitimacy, but has not been required to dismantle its nuclear or ideological infrastructure. The fifth reason for concern is the whole ensemble. The desired outcome is for Iran to become more moderate, not become nuclear, and join the family of nations, however experience reveals a gap between the way the United States and Europe understand the Middle East and the way the Middle East understands itself.