



# Rabbinic Recap

The week ending April 17, 2015

## IRAN

### **Senate Panel Approves Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act**

On April 14, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a markup of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (S.615) and passed the legislation unanimously by a 19-0 vote. Authored by Sens. Bob Corker (R-TN) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ), the bipartisan bill establishes a procedure for congressional review of any nuclear agreement with Iran. Under its provisions, Congress could pass a joint resolution objecting to an agreement it finds unsatisfactory and barring any statutory sanctions relief.

Led by Chairman Bob Corker (R-TN) and Ranking Member Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), the newly adopted legislation requires the president to submit any agreement to Congress and provide a period of time for the lawmakers to assess the deal.

"I am proud of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's unanimous support of this bill that will ensure the American people – through their elected representatives – will have a voice on any final deal with Iran, if one is reached," said Corker. "This bill always has been about allowing Congress the opportunity to review any final deal to ensure it is verifiable and enforceable before the president could act to unwind the sanctions that Congress put in place and which brought Iran to the table. I am hopeful that the strong, unanimous vote in the committee will build even more bipartisan support for this legislation in the full Senate and in the House of Representatives."

Echoing the chairman, Cardin stressed the necessity for congressional review on a final deal regarding Iran's nuclear program.

"I am extremely pleased that we were able to achieve a 19-0 vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to define an appropriate role for Congress in reviewing a nuclear agreement with Iran and strengthen the president's hand in negotiations," said Cardin. "...I have always supported congressional review of any final agreement with Iran. Congress has played an essential role on this issue, having authored the sanctions that brought Iran to the negotiating table. There is bipartisan support that Congress should have a right to review any agreement that would suspend or lift these congressional sanctions."

### **AIPAC Applauds Unanimous Approval of Iran Review Legislation**

AIPAC applauds the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for unanimously adopting the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 (S.615). This critical bipartisan legislation, authored by Sens. Bob Corker (R-TN) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ), establishes a procedure for congressional review of any nuclear agreement with Iran. AIPAC appreciates the leadership of Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Corker and Ranking Democrat Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) in gaining the panel's approval of the measure.

AIPAC believes that it is imperative for Congress to assert its historic foreign policy role. Congress should review any agreement to ensure it meets U.S. objectives and object if it

fails to do so. Serious concerns have been raised over the framework understanding. A final deal, with its immense national security implications, must be subjected to the constitutional system of checks and balances that is the bedrock of our democracy.

AIPAC urges the full Senate to adopt this legislation and for the House to take action on congressional review legislation.

## **House Democratic Leadership Signals Support of Iran Nuclear Review Bill**

House Democratic leaders are quickly jumping aboard legislation empowering Congress to review an emerging nuclear deal with Iran, reports [The Hill](#). House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) endorsed the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 (S.615) on Tuesday, shortly after it passed unanimously through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. This new Senate bill, a compromise hashed out between Corker (R-TN) and Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD), shortens the timeline of Congress's review of the deal, from 60 to 30 days, and empowers Congress with a vote of approval. Obama had threatened to veto the initial Corker bill, but White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Tuesday that the president would sign the Corker-Cardin compromise. The support from Obama and House Democrats could pave the way for quick passage of the measure; lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have demanded a greater voice in the high-stakes nuclear talks, and GOP leaders in both chambers are eyeing quick floor consideration.

## **ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS**

### **New tunnel detection system to operate on Gaza border**

According to [Ynet News](#), a new tunnel detection system developed by Elbit Systems will protect Israeli citizens from the threat of infiltration by Hamas terrorists. The system includes a series of sensors. The information they receive is analyzed using a control system based on algorithms. This method enables the precise identification of tunnel building and its location without false alarms. The system is the first of its kind in the world and was developed in Israel in record time by the Director of Research and Development in the Defense Ministry in cooperation with Israeli industries. Similar to the Iron Dome system developed by Rafael Advanced Security and Israel Aerospace Industries, the new tunnel-detecting system was developed as a response to a direct threat from Hamas – tunnels constructed from Gaza to Israeli territory, which were exposed during Operation Protective Edge. Alon Shuster, head of the Sha'ar HaNegev Regional Council, said he has been closely following the massive efforts made by the Defense Ministry and the IDF in developing measures to locate tunnels. Amit Caspi, from Kibbutz Kerem Shalom—a kibbutz that was directly threatened by Hamas tunnels—said: "The tunnel threat for us is a threat on the community's morale. Because of the nature of its danger, the surprise factor and the inability to defend oneself, it truly constitutes a personal threat. For us it registered as an insolvable threat so if there is a breakthrough here, even though we know that there is never 100 percent (certainty) on this matter, it could really improve personal security." He added: "I have no doubt that this will improve the morale and lives of all the residents of the Gaza border community. I hope it will help to save lives and of course to improve our day-to-day routine here."