



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending August 21, 2015

IRAN

U.N. to let Iran Inspect Alleged Nuke Work Site

The draft agreement between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) published on Wednesday by the [Associated Press](#) reveals troubling details about the inspection procedures at the Parchin military base, where Iran is suspected of conducting experiments using the components necessary to build a nuclear weapon. According to the document, Iranian representatives would inspect the site, without any intervention by U.N. inspectors, who would not even be allowed into the suspected compound, reports [Haaretz](#). Alongside the nuclear deal [between Iran and the P5+1], the IAEA and the Iranian government reached a separate agreement in which it was determined how the investigation into suspicions of a military nuclear program in Iran would be carried out. This agreement was kept classified, and its details were not revealed to the six powers, who received only an oral and general briefing on the matter from IAEA chief Yukiya Amano. According to the draft agreement, not only would the Iranians collect soil samples in Parchin themselves, but the unusual arrangement would also give the Iranians full authority to investigate the site. The result would be that the Iranians would be investigating themselves over the same issues for which they have been evading scrutiny and trying to cheat the world for the past 12 years.

AIPAC Statement on Senator Menendez Address on Iran Agreement

Senator Menendez has long been a dedicated and determined leader against the Iranian regime's efforts to obtain a nuclear weapon. We applaud him for his courageous and principled stand and urge his colleagues to carefully consider the case he put forward today, which reflects his deep understanding of this issue. Public and bipartisan congressional opposition to the deal is growing as it is becoming increasingly apparent that we need a better deal that will truly block Iran's path to a nuclear weapon.

[Click here to read Senator Menendez's speech at Seton Hall University on August 18th](#)

Poll: Most Americans want Congress to reject Iran deal

A growing majority of Americans are turning against the nuclear deal with Iran and believe Congress should reject the deal brokered between the U.S., five other world powers and Iran. As Congress inches closer to a vote to approve or disapprove of the deal, 56% of Americans now say they think Congress should reject the deal with Iran—up from 52% less than a month ago—according to the latest [CNN/ORC](#) poll released Thursday. With nearly all Republicans committed to opposing the deal when it comes up for a vote next month, President Obama will likely have to pull out his veto pen to keep the deal alive. Two leading Senate Democrats—Sen. Charles Schumer of New York and Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey—have already announced their opposition to the deal and vowed to vote to override Obama's veto if necessary.

Arms Seized in Kuwait came from Iran: Kuwaiti Newspapers

A huge arms cache seized in Kuwait last week was smuggled into the country from Iran, two Kuwaiti newspapers reported on Sunday. The Interior Ministry said on Thursday authorities had found ammunition, explosives, weapons and grenades in holes dug under houses in an area near the Iraqi border. Three men who owned the houses were detained. Al-Anba newspaper reported at the time that the weapons had been smuggled across the border from Iraq for use by members of an Iranian-backed Hezbollah cell. But al-Rai and al-Qabas dailies, citing unnamed sources, reported on Sunday that the weapons had been brought into Kuwait by sea from Iran, reports [Reuters](#). They quoted the sources as saying that the new information had come from confessions made by the detainees during interrogation.

Editorial: True bipartisanship—oppose the deal

In an [Op-Ed by J.B. Pritzker](#), a former co-chair for Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign and a self-declared "lifelong Democrat," he states that, "ending Iran's nuclear threat and bringing it into the international community of law-abiding nations is one of the most pressing U.S. foreign policy objectives. And so I was relieved and grateful to watch President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry work tirelessly over the past several months to achieve a diplomatic agreement with Iran over its nuclear program. This work was made all the more complicated by the need to coordinate the widely disparate interests among the P5+1 countries of Russia, China, France, Germany and the United Kingdom. Anyone who has been in business negotiations with multiple parties, as I have, knows how difficult it can be to find common ground with so many strong voices in the room. The challenge in multi-lateral negotiations is not to lose sight of one's over-arching goal in the midst of the cacophony of opinions at the bargaining table. For the U.S., which Iran has dubbed its No. 1 enemy in the world, our objectives were to reduce the threat to the homeland, to American interests abroad and to our allies in the region. Rejecting this deal will not end the diplomatic process. In fact, accepting this deal would likely cut off the diplomatic process for at least 15 years and would preclude us from negotiating a better deal. For the sake of our values and our security, Congress should reject this deal, leave the sanctions in place, and support efforts to negotiate a better agreement."

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israel's first special needs 'integration village' puts down roots

In an idyllic mountainous region in the Galilee, a veritable Garden of Eden for special needs integration may soon crop up on the landscape, reports [The Times of Israel](#). Last month, Israel's top building committee approved land for a community called Shibolet, a town designed for a mixed population of Israeli families and high-functioning special needs adults, clearing a major hurdle in its development. The vision, years in the making, would bring in its first stages some 50 families – most of whom have no immediate family members with special needs – and dozens of special needs adults, selected by the Welfare Ministry and the National Insurance Institute. The community will employ the special needs adults alongside its workers in the local services, and in agricultural tourism. Part therapy retreat, but mostly normal Israeli rural community, said Ofir Shick, the head of the Shibolet union the town has every fourth construction lot earmarked for apartments for its special needs residents, each of which will house between four and eight people who are on the autism spectrum or have other cognitive disabilities.