



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending December 11, 2015

IRAN

Members of Congress: Stronger U.S. Response Needed After Iranian Ballistic Missile Tests

U.S. officials have confirmed that Iran tested a medium-range ballistic missile on Nov. 21—the second such test since the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and a violation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions 1929 and 2231. Members of Congress from both parties have called on the United States for a stronger response to Iran's repeated transgressions. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) urged the administration to act on the latest illicit ballistic missile test, [stating](#) that the United States “cannot allow Iran’s threatening activities to continue without consequence.” Reps. Ted Deutch (D-FL) and Joseph Kennedy (D-MA) sent a [joint letter](#) to President Obama regarding the need to “hold Iran accountable” for violating international law. Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Bob Corker (R-TN) [condemned](#) the lack of a U.S. response, stating “the administration has the authority to penalize foreign individuals who engage in proliferation-related activities like ballistic missile launches. They have used that authority in the past, and should do so again.” On Dec. 8, Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) [spoke](#) on the Senate floor about the dangers of delivering a weak response to the recent ballistic missile tests. “What has happened as a result of Iran violating the U.N. Security Council resolutions as it relates to missile testing? Absolutely nothing,” he said. “Something is wrong because the silence is so deafening.”

[Click here to find a full compilation of statements from members of Congress.](#)

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Arrow 3 Missile Downs Ballistic Target in First Successful Test

The Israeli Defense Ministry and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) successfully conducted a test of the Arrow-3 ballistic missile defense system. The Israeli defense ministry praised the Dec. 10 test as a “major milestone,” noting that for the first time, the system accurately engaged and intercepted a target missile. The interceptor was launched from Israel’s Palmachim air base at an incoming missile fired off of the Israeli coast. Arrow-3, a jointly developed U.S.-Israel program, is designed to counter long-range conventional and unconventional strategic threats to Israel, including nuclear, biological and chemical warheads. The upper-tier, exo-atmospheric defense system is currently in development and is expected to undergo further trials before it is deployed. To date, the U.S. has provided \$2.5 billion in funding for the Arrow program. The Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), signed into law by President Barack Obama on Nov. 25, authorizes a total of \$474 million for Israeli missile defense programs, including Arrow-3. This funding will allow Israel to deploy Arrow-3 batteries to defend against potential ballistic missiles from Iran. As Israel’s enemies

develop more sophisticated and longer-range missiles, U.S.-Israel missile defense cooperation reinforces the unshakable bonds between these two allies.

[Click here to read a fact sheet with more information about U.S.-Israel missile defense cooperation.](#)

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

UPDATE: Palestinian Attacks on Israel

Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israel have left at least 18 dead and over 150 wounded. Below is a timeline of major attacks since December 6.

Dec. 10: Four Israelis were injured, one seriously, in a car-ramming attack near Kfar Luban in the West Bank. The attacker reportedly fled the scene.

Dec. 9: A Palestinian terrorist stabbed and wounded an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldier and a civilian near Beit Hadassah, a building that houses Jewish families in Hebron. The assailant was shot and killed on the scene. In the West Bank, an elderly Israeli couple was injured in a drive-by shooting attack. The couple's car was struck by 20 bullets, with one of the bullets piercing the Israeli man's skull.

Dec. 7: An Israeli man was seriously wounded in a Palestinian stabbing attack near the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron. The attacker was shot and killed at the scene.

Dec. 6: Three Israelis were wounded in a car-ramming and stabbing attack. After hitting two people with his vehicle, the Palestinian terrorist exited his car and stabbed an Israeli pedestrian. The assailant was shot and killed by an IDF soldier at the scene.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israeli Bodybuilder Wins Mr. Universe Competition

He was a slim and unconfident teenager who just wanted to build some muscle and improve his looks. Now he's Mr. Universe. Danny Kaganovich, 23, recently became the first Israeli to win one of the bodybuilding world's biggest titles, reports [Ynet](#). "I started training at age 16 at home, watching YouTube videos and reading on the internet, because I wanted to get strong and to improve my looks and confidence," Kaganovich smiles. "I was very thin: I weighed 60 kilos, which is half of what I weigh today. I saw that my muscles were responding well, so I signed up at a gym." After a year of intensive exercise, Kaganovich, who lived in Be'er Sheva, decided to compete in the Israeli Mr. South competition. It was his first competition, and he won. He says that bodybuilding hasn't only given him more confidence, but actually changed him completely. "I was a messy, silly kid," he says. "Bodybuilding put me in a structured environment. You need order and discipline in this sport. I became a different person – not just physically, but in my character - and I'm happy with the change." During his five years in the bodybuilding world, Kaganovich has won several different titles. He won the Mr. Universe youth category three years in a row, but this year, for the first time, he came in first as the competition's overall winner. He is the first Israeli to do so. "Now I keep looking forward. I want to try competing in other contests, including in the United States."