

The week ending January 9, 2015

IRAN

Gantz: Time is not right for Iran concessions

The IDF's top officer warned leading U.S. lawmakers and defense strategists against making concessions to Iran in exchange for a nuclear deal during an evening event at the Israeli Embassy Wednesday. Lt-Gen. Benny Gantz, IDF chief of general staff, came to Washington for a farewell visit in advance of leaving his position, and delivered a wide overview of his opinions on Israel's security position. "Iran is currently under major pressure," Gantz said, warning that "it is not time for concessions for them." According to [The Times of Israel](#), the general said he hoped that an agreement will be achieved without the use of force, but "the results should be the right ones." In the ongoing talks between the P5+1 states and Iran, the United States has maintained that Iran could continue to enrich low-grade uranium, and could cease plutonium production without necessarily entirely dismantling the heavy water plant at Arak. Israel has maintained that Iran must be stripped of its capacity to enrich uranium altogether. Michele Flournoy, the former undersecretary of defense for policy—the third-ranking official in the Department of Defense—spoke Gantz's praises while reaffirming American support for Israel's quantitative military edge. "At the heart of the very special relationship is the United States unshakeable commitment to the security of the state of Israel," she continued, emphasizing the bipartisan commitment in Washington to maintaining Israel's security.

EUROPE

Jewish cartoonist Georges Wolinski among 12 dead in Paris shooting

An attack on the Paris headquarters of a French satirical magazine has left at least 12 people dead, including the Jewish caricaturist Georges Wolinski, reports [JTA](#). The gunmen, who wore masks, cried out "Allah is the greatest" in Arabic and announced that the attack was to "avenge the prophet," Le Monde reported. Wolinski, 80, a Tunisia native who moved to France as a teenager, also was a cartoonist at the magazine and was known for his cynical and at times vulgar style. After entering journalism in the 1960s, he went on to work at leading French publications such as L'Humanite, Le Nouvel Observateur and Paris Match. One of Wolinski's cartoons, published in a 2002 compilation of his works, shows a Muslim girl walking with her mother down a war-ravaged street in the Middle East. The daughter asks what it means to be a free woman. The mother replies by presenting her daughter with a copy of a book titled "Hello Sadness." "It's clear that this was a planned attack against Wolinski and the other cartoon artists," said Richard Kenigsman, a well-known Jewish caricaturist and painter from Brussels. He cited an attack and multiple threats against Charlie Hebdo since 2006 for publishing caricatures deemed offensive to Islam. Sammy Ghozlan, president of the National Bureau for Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism, said in a statement, "France must

wake up to the danger of Islamism and the terror it brings all over the world: In Paris, Toulouse, Sarcelles, Brussels, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, jihadists are acting on the same radical Islamist ideology that is used to manipulate them.” Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman sent his condolences to the French people and said that Israel sympathizes with France’s pain, [The Jerusalem Post](#) reported.

U.S. - ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

U.S. Leaders Oppose Palestinian Move to Join ICC

After the Palestinian leadership formally submitted papers to join the International Criminal Court (ICC), key U.S. leaders from both parties released statements against the action. Republican and Democratic congressmen stressed that direct bilateral negotiations are the only way to achieve peace and bypassing Israel through an ICC investigation could lead to the U.S. withholding aid to the Palestinians. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) stated, “The Palestinians continued efforts to use international organizations like the United Nations and International Criminal Court to take over the peace process and marginalize the State of Israel will be met with serious disagreement and reaction by Congress. I support a two state solution where the parties negotiate a mutually beneficial agreement allowing for an independent Palestinian state and a secure and sovereign Israel. The recent effort by the Palestinians to join the ICC is very counter-productive and will put the Congress in the position of suspending support to the Palestinian people.” Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) is, “...deeply frustrated that just one day after the Palestinian leadership continued to try to circumvent a negotiated agreement with Israel, they have now taken yet another provocative step by moving to join the International Criminal Court.” She continues, “The answer should not be more unilateral actions. The only answer is negotiation. And this move only sets back the peace process even further. I will work with my colleagues in Congress to make it clear to the Palestinian Authority that they will be held accountable for these kinds of actions.” Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) states that “Instead of actively pursuing peace, the Palestinian leadership continues to distract from what should be their real focus - direct and robust negotiations with Israel.” Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) states that “The latest destructive actions by Abu Mazen and the Palestinian Authority reaffirms, once again, that Abu Mazen is not a real partner for peace.”

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Escaped Emu Turns Motorists' Heads Running on Israel Roadway

Israeli traffic this weekend was really for the birds. In the central Israeli town of Herzliya near Tel Aviv, an escaped emu ran through traffic Sunday on a main road between cars in the rain. Local authorities say the bird escaped from a private farm. Passer-by Iliya Zelser filmed the bird’s run. He says the experience made him feel like he was in a cartoon. Zelser says he expected to hear the “beep beep” of the cartoon Road Runner. The 27 year old told The Associated Press: “I said to myself in a second, a coyote will appear from behind. This was a really absurd situation.” Dorit Basman, the spokeswoman for the town of Herzliya, says authorities caught the emu Sunday and safely returned it to its owner, reports [Yahoo News](#).