



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending June 12, 2015

IRAN

Iran Envoy Declines to Commit to Nuclear Transparency Measures

According to [Reuters](#), Iran's envoy to the U.N. nuclear agency declined on Thursday to commit to nuclear transparency measures that were part of a preliminary deal Tehran and world powers reached in April, deflecting U.S. demands to implement such provisions. Laura Kennedy, the U.S. ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, told a session of the IAEA's 35-nation governing board that it "remains critical for Iran to implement the provisions of Modified Code 3.1...without delay." This provision requires from Iran early notification of the construction of any new nuclear facilities. Kennedy also said it was important for Iran to implement the IAEA's Additional Protocol, which allows U.N. inspectors under specific circumstances to visit Iranian sites with as little as two hours' notice. Kennedy further noted that Iran had still not resolved longstanding IAEA questions about the "possible military dimensions" (PMD), mainly before 2003, of its nuclear program.

"Iran Remains the Foremost State Sponsor of Terrorism," Clapper Says

Iran remains the leading state sponsor of terrorism, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said in a June 3, letter to a group of senators. "Iran remains the foremost state sponsor of terrorism and is increasing its ability to influence regional crises and conduct terrorism," said Clapper. "... Hezbollah is committed in using terrorism and has the capability to attack its perceived enemies worldwide with little to no warning," Clapper said of Iran's terrorist proxy. "The United States Intelligence Community (IC) continues to assess that Iran and Hezbollah directly threaten the interests of the United States and our allies and that Hezbollah remains a global terrorist threat. This has been the consistent view of the IC for more than three decades," said Clapper. In April, a group of senators wrote a letter to Clapper expressing concern that the threat of Iranian terrorism was absent from the 2015 Worldwide Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community. The letter was led by Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and signed by Sens. Tom Cotton (R-AR), Dan Coats (R-IN), Susan Collins (R-ME) Roy Blunt (R-MO), James Risch (R-ID) and James Lankford (R-OK). Clapper's recent letter was a direct response to their apprehension. "A specific reference to the terrorist threat from Iran and Hezbollah—which was not included in any of the drafts of the testimony—would have been appropriate for the 2015 assessment, but the lack of its inclusion is in no way a change of the IC's assessment," said Clapper.

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Top U.S. Military Official Affirms Israel Maintains Military Edge

The United States will continue to ensure Israel maintains its qualitative military edge, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey said on June 9. During a visit to the Jewish state, Dempsey stated that Israel and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have “no greater friend on the face of the earth than the United States military.” Dempsey was in Israel to meet with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya’alon and other security chiefs to discuss U.S.-Israel military cooperation and increased security challenges. Dempsey highlighted U.S. plans to continue improving Israeli air and missile defenses and efforts to advance Israeli cyber defenses, maritime security and anti-tunneling methods. In addition to meeting with Israeli defense officials, Dempsey was awarded a badge of appreciation from Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Gadi Eisenkot in a ceremony at the Kirya, the IDF headquarters in Tel Aviv. “I am greatly honored to host your visit to Israel. Your loyalty, friendship, and personal commitment to our security have inspired us,” Eisenkot told Dempsey during the award ceremony. “Under your leadership, the cooperation between our militaries has become more powerful.” His latest visit marks Dempsey’s fifth trip to Israel as U.S. military chief.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Bon Jovi Confirms October 3 Concert

Hard rock band Bon Jovi will perform in Israel Saturday night, October 3, ending a 13-country tour in Tel Aviv, reports [The Times of Israel](#). “It’s been half a year of work and a lot of cooperation to make this happen” said Shay Mor Yosef of the Bluestone promotion group. “These are artists who have traveled throughout the world, and to announce Bon Jovi is historic and exciting.” “This is one of the big ones,” added Mor Yosef. The hard rock band, which was formed in 1983 in New Jersey, the hometown of front man Jon Bon Jovi, has sold more than 100 million albums and performed over 2,500 live concerts. The band has had a string of hits, including “Livin’ on a Prayer,” “You Give Love a Bad Name,” and “It’s My Life.” Bon Jovi said in 2010 that he would bring the band to perform in Israel in 2011, but the performance never materialized. “You can’t just assume that Bon Jovi will come here during a world tour,” said Mor Yosef, “the fact that they are is a big success.” A key player in the concert negotiations was veteran French producer Marcel Avram, who helped the Bluestone Group work out details with Bon Jovi. “We’re happy and Bon Jovi is happy,” said Avram, speaking at a press conference in Tel Aviv’s Dan Hotel. “It never worked out for them to come to Israel and finally they decided that it’s about time.” When asked whether he thought Bon Jovi would bend to the expected pressure from musician Roger Waters and other supporters of the Boycott Divestment Sanctions movement which opposes Israel over its policies toward the Palestinians, Avram dismissed the possibility that he may cancel the concert. “Bon Jovi couldn’t care less,” he said. “If he wants to do something, he does. What does he care about Roger Waters?”