



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending May 8, 2015

U. S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Senate Adopts Iran Review Bill with Overwhelming Bipartisan Support

AIPAC commends the Senate for the overwhelming bipartisan passage of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 authored by Sens. Bob Corker (R-TN), Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Ben Cardin (D-MD). This important legislation provides Congress a mechanism to assert its historic foreign policy role and review any agreement to ensure it meets U.S. objectives, prevents relief of congressionally-imposed sanctions if it disapproves of the agreement, and requires the administration to report on Iran's compliance with a deal.

AIPAC urges the House to take speedy action on congressional review legislation and send it to the president for signature into law.

[Click here to thank your senators for supporting The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015](#)

David's Sling Addresses Growing Missile Threats

Amid unprecedented Mideast chaos and instability, Israel and the United States are working together to address the threat of expanded and more sophisticated rocket and missile arsenals. The David's Sling missile defense system represents the latest joint U.S.-Israel effort to counter missiles launched by Iran, Syria, Hamas and Hezbollah. The United States and Israel should continue to fund joint development of the system, which will be incorporated into Israel's broader defense strategy. The David's Sling missile defense system will help defend millions of Israelis from rocket and missile threats from multiple fronts. David's Sling—a short to medium-range ballistic missile defense system – will be incorporated into Israel's broader defense strategy, which includes deterrence, counter-attack, active missile defense, and civil defense measures. The U.S. has provided \$850 million in research and development funding for David's Sling since 2006 and signed a project agreement with Israel to co-develop the system in 2008. The United States must continue working with Israel to ensure its qualitative military edge and ability to defend against growing threats. Through the annual defense appropriations bill, the U.S. provides funding to jointly developed missile defense programs with Israel. These funds help Israel defend against rockets and missile threats posed by hostile adversaries. Congress should continue vital funding for other U.S.-Israel missile and rocket defense programs, including Iron Dome, Arrow Improvement System Program, and Arrow-3. The rapid development and deployment of Israel's multi-tiered rocket and missile defense system will continue to play an important role in mitigating Israel's growing missile threats and serve as an important demonstration of technology that can help protect U.S. forces.

ISRAELI ELECTIONS

Coalition deal signed, swearing in expected Wednesday

Following a night of last-minute negotiations, Likud and Bayit Yehudi (Jewish Home) signed a deal, completing the formation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government; swearing in is expected on Wednesday. According to [The Jerusalem Post](#), in a statement released Thursday morning, Bayit Yehudi confirmed that the agreement had been signed. "Bayit Yehudi received the education and diaspora affairs portfolios for its leader Naftali Bennett, justice minister for MK Ayelet Shaked, agriculture minister for MK Uri Ariel, and the position of deputy defense minister," the statement read. Ayelet Shaked also confirmed the signing of a deal after a sleepless night. "Now, we're off to work," she said in a statement. Opposition and Zionist Union leader Isaac Herzog reacted to the news on Thursday, reiterating that his party went to the opposition as promised from the beginning.

IRAN

Beyond the Nuclear: Iran Seeks Regional Dominance

Tehran's efforts to dominate the Middle East are proceeding in parallel with its ongoing nuclear program. From Lebanon to Yemen, Iran deploys its military and employs terrorism to expand its control over parts of the Middle East in an effort to rid the region of Western influence. Meanwhile, Iran has stepped up executions at home, as well as the suppression of women and journalists. The United States must work to ensure any benefit from sanctions relief pursuant to a final nuclear agreement is not used by Iran to finance regional aggression and harsh repression of its own citizens.

[To read more about Iran's efforts to dominate the Middle East click here.](#)

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Pocket device helps Nepalese earthquake victims breathe

Among the Israeli medical innovations that paramedic Dov Maisel brought to Nepal to treat victims after last month's devastating earthquake was the Pocket BVM (bag valve mask), a uniquely collapsible version of an essential device that emergency medical crews need for manual resuscitation and respiratory support. Maisel isn't only a user of the Pocket BVM; he's also one of its inventors. On the market since 2007 from the Jerusalem-based company MicroBVM, the inexpensive Pocket BVM folds into a protective case, allowing EMS workers to fit 20 of the devices into the space of two regular-sized resuscitators—yet once unfolded, the units look and operate the same as regular ones. "What's on our back is what we have, so we're very limited," Maisel told [ISRAEL21c](#) on Thursday morning from Gorkha, Nepal, where his team is treating earthquake victims. "I can carry a number of the Pocket BVMs with me, and the field box prevents dust, rubble and humidity from getting inside, so they're really made for this situation. Thank God we haven't needed to resuscitate many people yet, and I hope I won't be using all the ones I brought with me." Like many other revolutionary Israeli medical devices the Pocket BVM was born of tragic necessity. MicroBVM provided its product for free to Israeli troops during last summer's Operation Protective Edge. "Space is critical and this allows you to use your space for other things you need," Pollack explains.