



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending November 20, 2015

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

U.S. and Israel Condemn Paris Terrorist Attacks

The United States and Israel both condemned the Nov. 13 Paris terrorist attacks that left at least 129 people dead and more than 350 injured. Immediately following the attacks, U.S. President Barack Obama [said](#) that “Once again, we’ve seen an outrageous attempt to terrorize innocent civilians. This is an attack not just on Paris, it’s an attack not just on the people of France, but this is an attack on all of humanity and the universal values that we share.” “We stand prepared and ready to provide whatever assistance that the government and the people of France need to respond,” the president continued. “France is our oldest ally. The French people have stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States time and again. And we want to be very clear that we stand together with them in the fight against terrorism and extremism.” On Nov. 14, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Reuven Rivlin issued [statements](#) expressing their support for France. “I extend our deepest sympathies to the people of France and to the families of those who were brutally murdered in Paris last night. We also extend our wishes for a speedy recovery to the wounded,” said Netanyahu. “I call on the entire civilized world to unite to defeat the plague of worldwide terrorism. An attack on any one of us should be seen as an attack on all of us. All terrorism must be condemned and fought equally with unwavering determination. It’s only with this moral clarity that the forces of civilization will defeat the savagery of terrorism.” “On behalf of the people and Government of Israel, I extend our deepest sympathies to the people of France and to the families of those who were brutally murdered in Paris last night. We also extend our wishes for a speedy recovery to the wounded,” said President Rivlin. “Israel stands shoulder-to-shoulder with France in this common battle against militant Islamic terrorism. I’ve instructed Israel’s security and intelligence forces to assist their French counterparts and their counterparts from other European countries in any way possible.”

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

UPDATED: Palestinian Attacks on Israeli Citizens

Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israel have left at least 16 dead and over 150 wounded. Below is a timeline of major attacks since Oct. 13.

Nov. 19: Two Israelis were killed and one was wounded in a Palestinian stabbing attack at the Panorama building in South Tel Aviv outside a Judaica store where prayer services were being held. The Palestinian assailant was lightly wounded and taken into police custody. Just hours later, three people, an American, a Palestinian and an Israeli, were killed and many more were wounded in a shooting and car-ramming attack near Gush Etzion junction in the West Bank. The terrorist drove past and fired on cars stuck in a traffic jam near the junction before losing control of his vehicle and crashing into another car. The terrorist exited his vehicle and attempted to fire more rounds but was shot and arrested by security forces.

Nov. 13: Two Israelis, a father and his teenage son, were murdered near Otniel junction south of Hebron by two Palestinian gunmen. The mother of the family and a second son were also injured in the attack.

American Teen Named among Victims of Gush Etzion Terror Attack

Ezra Schwartz, an 18-year old American from Sharon, MA, on a gap year in Israel was among three victims of a terror attack late Thursday afternoon at the Gush Etzion junction in the West Bank. Seven others were lightly wounded in the attack. He was in a van with five others friends from the Beit Shemesh yeshiva where he studied. They had been in the area to distribute food to soldiers stationed in the region. Their van was among the many cars stuck in traffic at the junction. A Palestinian who drove from the direction of the Kfar Etzion junction, machined gunned the cars, with an automatic rifle, before hitting a vehicle. Security forces surrounded the terrorist and arrested him. Magen David Adom paramedics pronounced Schwartz dead at the scene. His five friends were evacuated to the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem; three were treated for light injuries and two for shock. They were all released. A second victim from the attack, Palestinian Shadi Arafeh, 24, of Hebron, was also pronounced dead at the scene. Yaakov Don, 51, a teacher and father of four who lived in the nearby Alon Shvut settlement was evacuated to Hadassah Medical Center in serious condition and was pronounced dead upon his arrival at the hospital. Two Israeli women, one lightly injured from the gunfire and another from the car accident, were taken to Shaare Zedek Medical Center, where they will remain overnight. The United States said it considered the attack to be an act of terrorism. "We condemn these terrorist attacks against innocent civilians in the strongest possible terms," Edgar Vasquez, a spokesperson for the State Department, told [The Jerusalem Post](#).

HEZBOLLAH

Senate Passes Bill Targeting Finances for Terrorist Organization

AIPAC commends the Senate for adopting critical legislation to cut off the terrorist group Hezbollah from the international finance system. The Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act was authored by Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), with the support of Senate Banking Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) and Ranking Democrat Sherrod Brown (D-OH). In May, the House adopted its version of this legislation.

A key provision of the bill would force international financial institutions to choose between doing business with Hezbollah or the United States. The measure would sanction foreign financial institutions that knowingly facilitate the activities of Hezbollah, including through the provision of significant financial services.

Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed terrorist group, poses a direct threat to American and Israeli security, dominates the Lebanese government, fights for the Syrian Assad regime, and possesses an arsenal of 150,000 rockets and missiles. Hezbollah has killed more Americans than any terrorist group other than al-Qaeda, and has recently attempted attacks, some successfully, in multiple countries including Bulgaria, Thailand, and Azerbaijan.