



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending October 16, 2015

IRAN

Iran's Ballistic Missile Test Violates International Law

On Oct. 11, Iran violated United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2231 by test-firing the Emad, a new long-range ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. Iran is prohibited under the Security Council resolution—the highest form of international law—from undertaking any activity related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons. According to the U.S. intelligence community, Iran is currently developing intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) capable of striking the United States. On Aug. 22, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani explicitly declared Iran's intention to continue ignoring international law stating, "We will buy, sell, and develop any weapons we need and we will not ask for permission or abide by any resolution for that."

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

UPDATE: Timeline of Palestinian Terror

Palestinian terrorists have violently attacked Israeli citizens in recent weeks, leaving seven dead and dozens more wounded. Below is a timeline of the attacks.

Oct. 14: A Palestinian Arab man attempted to stab a security guard near Jerusalem's Damascus Gate. He was shot and killed before he could carry out an attack. In a separate attack, an Arab stabbed a 70-year-old Jewish woman at Jerusalem's Central Bus Station and was shot and killed.

Oct. 13: Three Israelis were killed and over 25 were wounded in four separate Palestinian terror attacks in Jerusalem and Ra'anana. In one attack, an Arab man rammed his car (graphic) into a group of people at a bus stop in Jerusalem and then proceeded to stab the injured victims with a meat cleaver. In another attack, two terrorists, one armed with a gun and one with a knife, attacked passengers on a bus, killing two. All five perpetrators of Tuesday's attacks were East Jerusalem residents.

Oct. 12: Three Palestinian stabbing attacks occurred in Jerusalem wounding six. One of the victims of a triple stabbing was a 13-year-old Israeli boy riding his bike (graphic). In a separate incident, a Palestinian stabbed an Israeli soldier and attempted take his gun before being shot by a police officer. In another incident, a Palestinian tried to stab a border policeman and was shot dead.

Oct. 11: Four Israelis were injured, including one critically, in a stabbing attack at the Alon Junction in northern Israel. Earlier that morning, a Palestinian woman detonated explosives in her car at a West Bank checkpoint near Jerusalem, wounding a police officer.

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Members of Congress Condemn Palestinian Wave of Terror on Israeli Citizens

Members of Congress from both parties have condemned the current wave of Palestinian terror attacks on Israeli citizens, calling on the Palestinian Authority (PA) to denounce the violence, prevent attacks and cease incitement. Representative Bob Dold (R-IL) condemned the attacks stating, “While our friends in Israel simply wish to live in peace and security, the ever-present specter of violence can turn daily life in Israel upside-down in an instant. The series of stabbings and shootings of Israelis in the past few days and weeks is hate-fueled terror, plain and simple. There is zero justification for these terror attacks and seeking to rationalize them by delegitimizing Israel amounts to tone-deaf victim blaming.” Additionally, House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY) said, “It sickens me to wake up every morning to news of another stabbing or shooting in Israel. When will the terrorism end?” “My thoughts and prayers are with the victims of these brutal acts of terrorism and their families. And I hope that Israel and its people may soon know peace and security.”

For a complete list of congressional statements [please click here](#).

U.S. Jewish movements come together in support of Israel

This weekend, all of the major American Jewish synagogue movements will come together to observe what they describe as a “Special Sabbath of Solidarity” with Israel. According to [The Times of Israel](#), Rabbis and leaders from a number of Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstructionist movements joined with the umbrella organization Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to organize the event, which they hope will be observed in Jewish congregations across the country. Stephen Greenberg and Malcolm Hoenlein, the chairman and the executive vice chairman and CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, wrote in a statement that “the attacks of recent days are unique in that they appear spontaneous and occur around the country, targeting people going about their daily lives. The two emphasized the degree of unity demonstrated by the joint show of support, and called on all of the Conference of Presidents’ member organizations to encourage participation.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

NASA and Israel sign space cooperation agreement

NASA and the Israel Space Agency (ISA) signed an agreement Tuesday to expand cooperation in civil space activities, the Israeli government said. The deal was signed by NASA administrator Charles Bolden and ISA director Menachem Kidron on the sidelines of the International Astronautical Congress in Jerusalem, reports [The Times of Israel](#). Bolden said the agreement would enable the U.S. space agency to tap Israeli innovation and technology in cooperation “Our two countries have had a long history of cooperation in space exploration, scientific discovery and research, and we look forward to the opportunities this new agreement provides us to build upon this partnership,” he said in a statement. The Israel Space Agency expressed hope that the Jewish state’s technology would play a key role in future missions to Mars. The choice of Jerusalem as the host city for the annual International Astronautical Congress is considered a sign of Israel’s growing influence in the field of space exploration and technology.