



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending October 2, 2015

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

Netanyahu: Abbas's speech deceitful, encourages incitement

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' speech Wednesday to the UN General Assembly was dishonest and accused him of having no intention of making peace with Israel, [The Times of Israel](#) reported. "[Abbas's] speech is deceitful and encourages incitement and disaster in the Middle East," Netanyahu said in a statement shortly after Abbas declared to the U.N. that the PA was no longer committed to prior agreements with Israel. Netanyahu rejected Abbas's claims that the recent actions of Israeli security forces at Jerusalem's Temple Mount constituted an attempt to change the delicate status quo of the site, revered by both Jews and Muslims. "Unlike the Palestinians, Israel strictly adheres to the status quo on the Temple Mount, and is committed to continuing to do so in accordance with the agreements between Israel and Jordan and the Waqf," Netanyahu said in his response. The prime minister urged Abbas to "act responsibly" and accept his offer from earlier in September to resume direct negotiations without preconditions.

Hamas praises fatal shooting of couple in West Bank as 'heroic terror attack'

An Israeli couple were fatally shot as they were driving in their car with four of their children in the West Bank on Thursday night, reports [The Washington Post](#). The children escaped physically unharmed. The attack occurred shortly after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the U.N. General Assembly in New York and said he wanted to renew peace talks with Palestinians. An Israeli military spokesman, Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, said that the couple were Israeli citizens in their 30s and that four of their six children were in the back seat of the car. The four children ranged in age from 4 months to 9 years. Israeli troops were searching the area where the vehicle was hit by bullets. Israeli police said the shots were fired from a passing vehicle. Hussam Badran, a spokesman for the militant Islamist movement Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip but is increasingly popular in the West Bank, said, "We praise the heroic operation conducted by resistance fighters in the West Bank that killed two settlers and wounded others east of Nablus." The Hamas military wing tweeted that it hoped the attack "won't be the last one, God willing." Israeli officials accused Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas of inciting the attack. Abbas addressed the United Nations on Wednesday and said Israel's ongoing expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank were undermining peace efforts. Abbas and his Palestinian Authority have vowed to support a nonviolent path toward a state.

IRAN

Netanyahu Speaks at the United Nations General Assembly

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took to the podium at the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday, a day after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas accused Israel of being an occupying apartheid state, while threatening to cancel existing agreements with Israel. According to [Ynet](#), Netanyahu devoted the majority of his speech to addressing his concerns regarding the recent nuclear deal with Iran, mentioning the many security problems posed by Iran. The prime minister said that Iran has only increased its aggression since the deal was signed, increasing support for Assad, Hezbollah and Hamas, as well as setting up terror cells around the world, including in the Western Hemisphere. He warned that once sanctions are removed, “unleashed and unmuzzled, Iran will go on the prowl.” Netanyahu argued that the world has long been watching outrageous Iranian behavior in silence—“Utter silence. Deafening silence.” In order to bring this point home, he then spent roughly 40 seconds staring at his audience in complete silence. Netanyahu said, “We see a world celebrating this bad deal, rushing to embrace and do business with a regime openly committed to our destruction.” The prime minister held up a copy of the latest book by Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that he said was a “400-page screed detailing his plan to destroy the state of Israel.” While the bulk of the speech involved Iran, Netanyahu did also raise the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He said he was prepared to return to negotiations with the Palestinians without any preconditions whatsoever, adding that Israel was still committed to a two-state solution.

[Click here to watch Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s full address to the U.N.](#)

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Christian evangelicals in Jerusalem show love for Israel

According to [The New York Times](#), thousands of evangelical Christians from more than 80 countries descended upon Jerusalem this week to show their support for the Jewish state, including pilgrims and politicians from countries with a history of hostility toward Israel. The celebratory summit reflects evangelical Christianity’s dramatic growth worldwide and gives a boost to Israel at a time when the country is increasingly isolated internationally. “Israel has no better friends throughout the world,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a videotaped address that was beamed to a Jerusalem basketball stadium packed with cheering pilgrims Tuesday. The gatherers waved flags from home countries such as Angola, Brazil, China, Germany, Italy and the U.S. There was even a small delegation from Egypt, a country that shares a cold peace with Israel. “The number of Jewish communities is limited,” said Akiva Tor of Israel’s Foreign Ministry. “When there are large numbers of Christians who are interested in visiting Israel and understanding Israel—that of course is very, very helpful toward improving our international standing.”