



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending October 30, 2015

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Ya'alon and Carter Begin Talks on Maintaining Israeli Military Edge

Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon and U.S. Secretary of State Ashton Carter have opened talks on the defense package Washington will offer Israel over the next decade. Ya'alon, who was in the U.S. on an official visit to discuss the package, spoke at the Israeli Embassy in Washington on Monday night at a memorial event marking 20 years since the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "During this visit, I will be meeting with my good friend Secretary of Defense Ashton (Ash) Carter, who has time and again proven his commitment to the security of the state of Israel," Ya'alon said. "We will discuss how to further increase the IDF's capacity and capabilities to maintain our qualitative edge given increased and growing regional threats on the security of our country," he continued. "Today, 20 years later [after the assassination], the United States is Israel's greatest friend. Its contribution to our security is tremendous and is truly our strategic cornerstone," he said. "The relationship between the United States and Israel is based on shared values and interests, and is clearly expressed in the strong ties between our defense establishments, armed forces and intelligence agencies," the defense minister said. According to [The Jerusalem Post](#), Ya'alon thanked "the American people, President Barack Obama and the Congress, for your contribution and commitment to our [Israel's] security. There is no truer friend of Israel than the United States of America. And no difference of opinion can harm this relationship."

IRAN

U.N. Rights Investigator Highly Critical of Iran

The special United Nations investigator of human rights in Iran presented a highly critical report on Tuesday that contradicted the Tehran government's own assessment, describing a record rate of executions, a deeply flawed judiciary and repression of journalists, dissidents, women and freedom of expression. According to [The New York Times](#), the U.N. investigator, Ahmed Shaheed said, Iranians are worse off now during the era of current Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's than his polarizing and relatively conservative predecessor, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Amendments to a criminal procedure law, for example, impose new restrictions on access to legal counsel. Some defendants must now choose lawyers from a pool selected by the head of the judiciary. "The human rights situation in the country remains dire," Mr. Shaheed said in a briefing at the United Nations. Despite Mr. Rouhani's pledge to lighten the repressive atmosphere that prevailed during the Ahmadinejad years, Mr. Shaheed said, there was a "strong disconnect between the professed policy of engagement and the behavior of authorities on the ground." Much of Mr. Shaheed's report focused on what he described as Iran's shortcomings and failures to honor basic tenets of United Nations human rights doctrine. The report exhorted Iran to improve "its engagement with United Nations human rights mechanisms,"

including monitoring provisions. His most striking criticism dwelled on what rights advocates have called Iran's increasing rate of executions, mostly for nonviolent drug offenses, under Mr. Rouhani's administration, which has given Iran the distinction as the top employer of the death-penalty per capita of any country. Mr. Shaheed described the trend as an "unprecedented assault on the right to life in Iran."

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

UPDATED: Palestinian Attacks on Israeli Citizens

Palestinian terrorists are violently attacking Israeli citizens, leaving ten dead and dozens more wounded. Below is a timeline of major attacks since Oct. 26.

Oct. 29: In Hebron, there were two separate Palestinian knife attacks on Israeli security forces, injuring one Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldier. Both Palestinian assailants were shot and killed on the scene.

Oct. 28: An Israeli woman was stabbed by a Palestinian terrorist outside a supermarket in Gush Etzion in the West Bank. Her attacker was apprehended by Israeli police. In Hebron, a Palestinian terrorist attempted to stab an IDF soldier, but was shot and killed by other soldiers on site before he could carry out his attack.

Oct. 27: American citizen Richard Lakin, 76, succumbed to wounds sustained during an Oct. 13 terrorist attack on a bus in Jerusalem. In Gush Etzion in the West Bank, an IDF soldier was stabbed by two Palestinian terrorists while attempting to question them for suspicious activity. Other soldiers on site shot and killed the two attackers.

Oct. 26: A Palestinian stabbed and seriously injured an IDF soldier near Hebron. In a separate incident, a Palestinian attempted to stab a soldier in Hebron, but was neutralized before carrying out the attack.

[Click here to stay updated on recent Palestinian attacks in Israel](#)

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Colorado Signs Tech Research and Development Agreement with Israel

The State of Colorado is the latest U.S. state to sign a new industrial R&D, Research and Development, agreement with Israel. Colorado already signed an R&D agreement with Israel in 2010, but the two states decided to renew the agreement following Colorado's decision to significantly increase budgets earmarked for Coloradoan companies conducting R&D, including grants for local industry. Under the new agreement, Israeli companies will team with Coloradoan companies to co-develop and commercialize innovative products. "We are proud to have Colorado among the list of 12 U.S. states which cooperate with Israel on technology and R&D, including New York, Massachusetts, California, Florida and others," said Chief Scientist Avi Hasson. "Cooperation between Israeli companies and American companies has proven its value to both sides. The U.S. is a technological powerhouse and we are proud to be so attractive to U.S. companies, entrepreneurs, investors and developers." According to [Israel21c](#), the goal of the new agreement is to establish a mechanism of cooperation with parallel funding for companies from both countries conducting joint research and development projects.