



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending October 9, 2015

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

Fourth Terror Attack Today: Assailant Stabs IDF Soldier in Afula

Two people were stabbed in Afula in a terror attack on Thursday, reports [The Jerusalem Post](#). The attack was the fourth such stabbing attack perpetrated in Israel on Thursday, with previous attacks in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Kiryat Arba. The attack occurred on Arlozorov Street in Afula and a 21-year-old IDF soldier was wounded, Magen David Adom stated. Paramedics provided medical treatment at the scene before taking the two people to Emek Medical Center in Afula. Following the attack, civilians pinned the terrorist, who spoke Arabic, to the ground until police could arrive. A group of bystanders in the area tried to attack the suspect, as well as officers. More police were called to the scene to disperse them with tear gas. The Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) named the attacker as Jenin resident Tarak Yahya, 20. Yahya, who is single, has no history of previous security offenses or arrests. Miki Fischler, a volunteer United Hatzalah paramedic who arrived on the scene, described finding "a youth who was stabbed by a terrorist in his upper body. Together with other volunteers we gave him medical treatment. He was fully conscious and suffering from stab wounds." He added that "security forces acted to neutralize the terrorist and to prevent him from stabbing additional civilians. A number of people were treated on the scene for shock and inhalation of tear gas."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Holds Press Conference in Wave of Terror Attacks

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke out Thursday amid a wave of terror attacks that have hit Israel in recent days, saying that the Islamist extremism plaguing the Middle East has arrived at Israel's doorstep as well. "Hateful terrorists are trying to hurt our people," Netanyahu said, praising security forces for their bravery in combating the attacks. According to [The Jerusalem Post](#), Israel has always known how to push back the terrorists and build the country and "we will defeat them this time as well," Netanyahu said. He said that the terror was not organized, but nonetheless came as the result of a campaign of incitement by Hamas, the Islamic Movement in Israel, the Palestinian Authority and countries in the region, particularly lies about Israel seeking to change the status quo at the Temple Mount, a flashpoint for violence during the recent tensions. Netanyahu said that Israel had already taken steps to root out the terror, including destroying terrorist's homes and increasing penalties for stone-throwers. "We will prove that the terror won't win and we will defeat it," he vowed. He said that Israel's defensive leadership was doing everything to bring security back to Israel's citizens.

Palestinian Authority Paying Convicted Murderers Imprisoned by Israel

Official Palestinian government documents published by Israel Radio on Tuesday showed hundreds of thousands of dollars in payments to prisoners convicted in some of the deadliest attacks on Israelis. The report came after days of violent clashes and repeated Israeli accusations of Palestinian incitement to violence. Israel Radio said the documents reveal that hefty sums have been given to murderers serving out multiple life sentences in Israeli prisons, reports [The Times of Israel](#). Individuals who received funds from the Palestinian Authority (PA) include members of the PA security forces who were implicated in terrorist attacks against Israelis during the Second Intifada, as well as senior Hamas members serving time in Israeli prisons. Abdullah Barghouti, a Hamas commander and bomb-maker serving 67 life terms for his involvement in several terror attacks, including the bombing of the Sbarro restaurant in Jerusalem in August 2001 that killed 15 Israelis and wounded some 130, has received over NIS 250,000 (\$64,000) from the Palestinian Authority, the report said. Palestinians have long acknowledged paying support to the families of prisoners held by Israel, but payments made personally to prisoners convicted in deadly attacks have never been made public. Ashraf al-Ajrami, a former Palestinian minister for prisoner's affairs, confirmed the report, saying the prisoners are "heroes" and the money is for their families.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Bon Jovi in Israel: 'I'll Return Anytime You Want'

Jon Bon Jovi said at his first-ever concert in Israel that "I'll come here any time you want." According to [JTA](#), in an apparent swipe at the BDS movement, Bon Jovi made the vow at the end of his performance on Saturday night in Tel Aviv before tens of thousands of fans. "We're finally here. It took me long enough," the American rock star said during the concert. He dedicated a new song, "We Don't Run," released during the summer, to Israelis, saying: "This one I think should be the fight song for all of Tel Aviv. It's called We Don't Run." The concert opened less than an hour after a stabbing attack in Jerusalem left two Jewish-Israeli men dead. Bon Jovi came under pressure from the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, most notably from Pink Floyd front-man Roger Waters, to cancel the concert.

Jerry Seinfeld Brings His Stand-up to Tel Aviv in December

Superstar Jewish-American comedian Jerry Seinfeld will perform in Tel Aviv's Menora Mivtachim Arena on December 19 as part of a world tour, it was announced Tuesday. According to [Haaretz](#), Seinfeld has been to Israel several times, including a stint as a volunteer on Kibbutz Sa'ad when he was a teenager. After he became famous, he visited Israel to promote the DreamWorks' animated film "Bee Movie," which he wrote, produced and starred in. Seinfeld began doing stand-up comedy in college, where he wrote a thesis on the subject; later, he was a frequent guest on late-night television shows hosted by Johnny Carson and David Letterman. He achieved superstardom with his role as a semi-fictional version of himself in the situation comedy "Seinfeld," which ran for nine years and is considered one of the most successful sitcoms on American television. Since the series went off the air, in 1998, Seinfeld has been involved in numerous projects, including the documentary "Comedian" (2002) and the online series "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee," while continuing to perform live.