



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending September 11, 2015

IRAN

AIPAC Statement: Bipartisan Senate Majority Rejects Iran Nuclear Deal

By a solid, bipartisan majority, the Senate today made it clear that it rejects the profoundly flawed nuclear deal with Iran.

While the American people deserved a direct up or down vote on the resolution of disapproval, the fifty-eight senators who spoke out against the agreement and voted to invoke cloture succeeded in their effort to express opposition to the deal. AIPAC applauds the senators who supported moving to a vote on final passage of the resolution of disapproval. We urge those who have blocked a vote today to reconsider.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) will not block Iran's path to a bomb, but will enrich and entrench the world's leading state sponsor of terror. Despite major efforts by proponents of the JCPOA, both Congress and a majority of the American people reject this deal. Indeed, many of the supporters of the agreement express grave reservations that echo the arguments of the opponents. In poll after poll, overwhelming majorities of the American public express their belief that this deal will not work.

In sum, this deeply flawed, unpopular agreement with a distrusted, terrorist-sponsoring regime will lack the imprimatur of either the American people or the Senate. By its vote today, the Senate has sent a strong message to the world that the American people are deeply skeptical about Iran's willingness to meet its commitments and the long term viability of this agreement. This vote should provide a note of caution—especially to foreign companies and governments -- about jumping back into Iran.

This is a dangerous moment for America and our allies. Congress and the executive branch must now maintain constant vigilance concerning Iranian compliance with the deal and be ready to move quickly against any Iranian effort to advance its nuclear quest. In addition, we must step up pressure against Iran's other malign activities and take firm action to support our regional allies, especially Israel.

AIPAC remains strongly committed to continuing our efforts to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship and to ensure the security and safety of our democratic ally.

Khamenei: Israel Won't Survive Next 25 Years

Israel will not survive the next 25 years, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Wednesday, making a series of threatening remarks published online. In a quote posted to Twitter by Khamenei's official account, Khamenei addresses Israel, saying, "You will not see

next 25 years,” and adds that the Jewish state will be hounded until it is destroyed, reports [The Times of Israel](#). Khamenei’s statements also reaffirmed his view that the U.S. is a “Great Satan” and that there would be no detente with Washington beyond the nuclear talks. “We approved talks with the United States about [the] nuclear issue specifically. We have not allowed talks with the U.S. in other fields and we [do] not negotiate with them,” Khamenei said in statements published on his website. Khamenei is quoted as saying any other talks would be “a tool for penetration and imposing their demands.” On Twitter, Khamenei said talks with the U.S. were a “means of infiltration and imposition of their wills.”

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Netanyahu in U.K. says he is ready for Peace Talks Right Now

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday told his U.K. counterpart that he is ready for peace talks with the Palestinians, without preconditions, and he is ready to start talking immediately, reports [The Times of Israel](#). Ahead of a meeting with British Prime Minister David Cameron at the British leader’s office on Downing Street, Netanyahu also said he blamed the deteriorating situation in the Middle East on a clash between extremist elements of Sunni and Shia Islam being driven by the Islamic State and Iran. “I want to say here in 10 Downing Street, and reaffirm again, that I am ready to resume direct negotiations with the Palestinians with no conditions whatsoever to enter negotiations, and I’m willing to do so immediately,” Netanyahu said. “The Middle East is disintegrating under the twin forces of militant Islam: the militant Sunnis led by ISIS [the Islamic State group] and the militant Shiites led by Iran,” Netanyahu warned Cameron. “I believe that we can cooperate in practical ways to roll back the tide of militant Islam both in the Middle East and in Africa altogether.”

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

IsraAID Sends Team to Help Refugees in Europe

Streams of desperate refugees flooding Europe from the Middle East, Asia and Africa are getting a helping hand from [IsraAID](#), a non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in Israel in 2001 to bring lifesaving disaster relief and long-term support wherever needed. “We are running a campaign with the goal of inspiring the Jewish people and Israel to help the hundreds of thousands of refugees washed up on the shores of Europe,” says IsraAID Director Shachar Zahavi. As of Tuesday evening, the NGO had raised enough money to send three professionals, who will land early Wednesday in Athens and then later proceed to Lesbos. Zahavi tells [Israel21c](#) that he hopes to send additional volunteers to help manage the European migrant crisis currently overwhelming several countries. “First we’ll tend to psychosocial needs and then we’ll do an assessment of physical needs, and purchase food or non-food items in the areas where we’re working. We need to buy locally to make sure efforts are coordinated and we don’t bring stuff from Israel that we’d just have to bring back afterward.” “I think Jews have a responsibility, after the Holocaust in Europe only 70 years ago, to get involved and actually become leaders in this. We know, more than others, what happened when countries wouldn’t accept Jewish refugees of atrocities,” says Zahavi, who has been involved in disaster relief for more than 25 years.