



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending September 4, 2015

IRAN

Survey: 2/3 of National Security Professionals Give Iran Deal a Thumbs Down

Just 26 percent of U.S. national security workers believe that the West's nuclear agreement with Iran is good for America, and even fewer think it will help Israel or Saudi Arabia, a new [Defense One](#) survey shows. Asked to evaluate the statement "The Iran nuclear deal is a good deal for the United States," some 66 percent of responders disagreed—and two-thirds of that group "strongly disagreed." Some 62 percent said that the U.S. would be better off simply rejecting the deal and keeping current sanctions in place. There were 465 respondents [to the survey] from the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, State and the military service branches. Of that total, 15 percent were active duty military and 7 percent were military reservists.

Letter to Undecided Senators on the Iran Deal

In an Op-Ed published in [The Hill](#), Robert Satloff writes a compelling letter to those Senators who have not yet come out for or against the Iranian nuclear deal. "Congratulations, senators. You have fended off both advocates and critics of the Iran nuclear agreement and are among the few remaining "undecideds." You have built up leverage. How will you use it? Since you are undecided, you don't consider the deal either brilliant or imbecilic. Rather, you recognize its achievements but also shake your heads at its flaws. You've heard the argument that scuttling the deal may ultimately leave America more isolated than Iran, but you also know from your years on foreign relations, intelligence and armed services committees that the agreement carries huge risks for U.S. and allied interests. You have been impressed by suggestions on how to achieve this goal unilaterally by the U.S. government or jointly with our European allies, i.e., without even opening the agreement for renegotiation. These suggestions include making Iran think twice about transferring sanctions-relief windfall to its terrorist proxies by reaching understandings now with our partners on sanctions to be imposed on Iran for every marginal dollar sent to Hezbollah et al beyond Tehran's traditional annual subvention, or complement our own deterrence by bolstering Israel's independent capability against Iran's potential nuclear weapon via offering to transfer to Israel the 30,000-pound, mountain-busting Massive Ordnance Penetrator and the requisite aircraft to carry it. The question for you is how to use your vote to improve the deal. Maintaining this position isn't easy. It means threatening to vote 'yes' on cloture and, ultimately, threatening to vote to disapprove the agreement. In the end, you may need to follow through on these threats."

Report: Consequences of the Iran Deal for U.S. National Security

The Iran Strategy Council, an organization of former top senior military senior officials and defense analysts, has released a new report detailing how the Iran deal will make the United States and its allies less safe—and war with Iran and its proxies more likely. The Council addresses the likelihood of conventional and nuclear arms races, increased Iranian support for

terrorist proxies like Hezbollah and Hamas, the need for enhanced U.S. cooperation with regional allies in response to Iran's growing military capabilities, and how much the U.S. military would have to increase its footprint in the region—at a time when legally mandated budget cuts to the U.S. military are already reducing America's security capabilities. The final agreement on Iran's nuclear program, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), has potentially grave strategic implications that directly threaten to undermine the national security of the United States and our closest regional allies. By allowing Iran to become a nuclear threshold state and enabling it to become more powerful and expand its influence and destabilizing activities—across the Middle East and possibly directly threatening the U.S. homeland—the JCPOA will place the United States in far worse position to prevent a nuclear Iran.

[Click here to read more from JINSA, The Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs.](#)

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

IDF strikes Gaza after sniper fire hits Israeli homes

According to [The Times of Israel](#), the IDF struck a Hamas target in the northern Gaza Strip early Thursday morning in response to sniper fire at an Israeli town a day earlier. The IDF confirmed that Israeli jets struck a Hamas military base from which the shooting supposedly came. A Hamas media outlet in Gaza reported that Israeli helicopters fired two missiles. There were no immediate reports of injuries in the strike. The stray bullets were apparently fired from a Hamas training camp in the Gaza Strip, and hit an Israeli home in a kibbutz adjacent to the Palestinian enclave Wednesday evening, causing damage but no injuries. One of the bullets shattered the window of a home in the Kibbutz Netiv Ha'asara and hit a television while two children, aged 6 and 9, were watching it.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israeli med tech company bought for record \$929 million

A mega acquisition deal worth roughly \$929 million of Israeli replacement heart valve maker Valtech Cardio by HeartWare International has Israel's startup sector buzzing with excitement. The U.S.-based heart technology company [HeartWare International] announced late yesterday that it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire the privately held Tel Aviv company, which employs just 40 people, and specializes in the development of devices for mitral and tricuspid valve repair and replacement. According to [Israel21c](#), it is the biggest buy-out of an Israeli medical device company ever, and one of the biggest deals in any industry in Israel. Millions of people with heart disease are likely to benefit from this deal. Valtech is a leader in the development of innovative surgical and transcatheter valve repair and replacement devices for the treatment of mitral valve regurgitation (MR) and tricuspid valve regurgitation (TR). "Valtech has benefited significantly from HeartWare's early investment in our company. Since then, we have developed a strong relationship based on a shared mission to deliver transformative products to patients with advanced heart failure and degenerative heart conditions," said Amir Gross, founder and CEO of Valtech.