



# Rabbinic Recap

The week of December 9, 2016

## U.S. - ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

### **AIPAC Press Release: AIPAC Commends Congress for Enhancing U.S.-Israel Strategic Cooperation**

AIPAC commends Congress for strongly bolstering U.S.-Israel defense cooperation by authorizing a total of \$600.7 million for U.S.-Israel missile defense cooperation in the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). These funds will help Israel defend its citizens against rocket and missile threats, and will further America's own missile defense programs. Beyond missile defense funding, provisions in the measure provide for a broad range of U.S.-Israel cooperation and demonstrate Congress' strong interest in addressing Iran's malign behavior. AIPAC applauds the leadership of Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain (R-AZ) and Ranking Member Jack Reed (D-RI), along with House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-TX) and Ranking Member Adam Smith (D-WA), who ensured these critical programs were included in the legislation. As Israel faces increased security challenges, AIPAC urges Congress to provide full funding for the programs authorized in this bill.

[Please click here to read the full AIPAC Press Release.](#)

### **Senate Unanimously Approves Anti-Semitism Awareness Act**

On Dec. 1, the Senate unanimously passed a bipartisan bill that presents guidelines for the definition of anti-Semitism to be considered by the Department of Education during anti-discrimination investigations into violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Authored by Sens. Tim Scott (R-SC) and Bob Casey (D-PA), the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act of 2016 (S. 10) addresses the "sharp increase" of anti-Semitic incidents occurring on college campuses throughout the country. "There is simply no place in our country for this kind of intolerance," said Sen. Scott. "It falls on us to stand up and do more to stamp out anti-Semitism and other forms of religious discrimination. We must hold to the ideals that our nation was founded on and promote freedom of religion. We must protect that freedom and encourage it." "The rise in incidents of religious discrimination and religiously-motivated hate crimes is completely unacceptable. We have to not only condemn it, but work to stop it," said Sen. Casey. "This legislation is aimed at a particularly troubling manifestation of the growing problem of anti-Semitism: when anti-Semitic views lead to discrimination against students of Jewish faith or Jewish ancestry." In the House, Reps. Peter Roskam (R-IL) and Ted Deutch (D-FL) introduced similar legislation (H.R. 6421) regarding the implementation of federal anti-discrimination laws concerning education programs or activities related to anti-Semitism. "I'm pleased that this legislation moved forward and call on the House of Representatives to quickly send it to the President's desk," said Sen. Casey.

## ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

**In rare move, Netanyahu and Lieberman approve armored jeeps for Palestinian security forces**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman have approved the delivery of five armored jeeps for the Palestinian Authority security forces. A senior Israeli official said the move was unusual; there has been no decision like it in many years, reports [Ha'aretz](#). He said the move comes amid a deteriorating security situation in the West Bank. The jeeps were delivered overnight Sunday into Monday via the Allenby Bridge. The vehicles were loaded onto transporters at the crossing under the supervision of Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli officers, and were sent to PA security bases. A senior Israeli official said Lt. Gen. Frederick S. Rudesheim, the U.S. security coordinator, made the delivery happen by working with the Palestinian security coordinator, Israeli security coordinator Yoav Mordechai, Central Command chief Roni Numa and Jordanian security. The United States supported the request and the Jordanians agreed to supply the vehicles. The Central Command and the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories examined the request and recommended Lieberman and Netanyahu to go ahead with the move.

## IRAN

### **Two Iranians Charged in Kenyan Court with Terrorism**

Two Iranian men were charged Thursday in a Kenyan court with collecting information to facilitate a terrorist act after they were allegedly found with video footage of the Israeli embassy. According to [The Associate Press](#), Sayed Nasrollah Ebrahim and Abdolhosein Gholi Safaee were arrested Tuesday in an Iranian diplomatic car on Bishops Road in Nairobi, after they had come from visiting Kamiti Prison where they saw two other Iranians who have been jailed for 15 years on terrorism charges, said prosecutor Duncan Ondimu. The suspects were taking the pictures using a mobile phone, Ondimu said. A Kenyan driver, Moses Keyah Mmboga, who was chauffeuring the vehicle belonging to the Iranian embassy, has been charged with the suspects and also faces a separate charge of "abetting terrorism. Iranian agents are suspected in attacks or thwarted attacks around the globe in recent years, including in Azerbaijan, Thailand and India. Most of the plots had Israeli targets.

## ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

### **Israeli backpackers save life of Japanese tourist in Nepal**

Several Israeli backpackers on the world-famous Annapurna Circuit in Nepal couldn't have known that their post-army trek would turn into a lifesaving mission. Luckily, the backpackers, recently discharged from their military service, were near Thorong Phedi (4,538 meters high) exactly when Japanese tourist Akiho Sugiyama needed them to save her life. According to [Israel21c](#), the 40-year-old Japanese artist and calligrapher, who was trekking solo, was hit by a sudden rockslide that buried her under heavy boulders. The Israeli backpackers arrived on the scene, which was along their trail route, a few minutes after the accident and raced to her rescue upon hearing her cries for help, according to a Facebook post uploaded on December 5 by Chabad House Thamel Kathmandu. One of the Israeli backpackers was an army medic and applied tourniquets to Sugiyama, who was bleeding profusely. Others in the group sent an SOS signal with a satellite phone to the Chabad House in Kathmandu, run by Rabbi Chezi and Chani Lifshitz. Sugiyama was given blood transfusions and her condition was upgraded from critical to stable. Nepalese doctors credited the onsite emergency aid and quick evacuation with saving her life and her leg from amputation. "Akiho told me over and over that she is extremely grateful to the Israelis who saved her," wrote Lifshitz.