



# Rabbinic Recap

The week ending August 19, 2016

## U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

### **Israel Participates in International Joint Aerial Combat Exercise with the United States**

On Aug. 15, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) joined the three-week Red Flag aerial combat simulation hosted by the United States at Nevada's Nellis Air Force Base. This year marks the second consecutive year the Jewish state is participating in the exercise. The IAF sent F-16I "Sufa" (Storm) fighter jets to take part in the simulation. Israeli pilots will fly alongside their counterparts from various countries around the world, including those from the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan—two countries with which Israel does not have official diplomatic relations. "The air force trains regularly in Israel and abroad in order to maintain operational fitness for various operational plans. The Red Flag exercise involves unique and high-quality training. When the IAF was invited to participate, it accepted the invitation," [said](#) an Israel Defense Forces spokesperson. The Red Flag training exercise employs fighter jets in advanced aerial combat simulations. Participating squadrons are assigned to two teams—red and blue. They practice intercepting enemy aircraft, attacking targets, saving teammates and engaging in aerial maneuvers under the risk of surface-to-air missiles. "The Red Flag is the biggest and best simulation of war in the world," [said](#) one IAF officer at the end of the 2015 exercise.

## HEZBOLLAH

### **Hezbollah cells in West Bank busted by Israeli security forces**

The Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) announced Tuesday that it had taken down a number of terror cells in the West Bank whose members had been recruited through Facebook by Hezbollah members in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip. According to the Shin Bet, who busted the cells along with the IDF and police, Hezbollah has been working diligently in recent years to recruit operatives in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel to carry out terror attacks against Israeli targets. The organization has instructed operatives to carry out shooting attacks and suicide attacks, as well as ordering them to recruit more members, reports [The Jerusalem Post](#). Among the groups arrested in the Shin Bet operation announced on Tuesday were a cell from Kalkilya in the West Bank which was ordered to carry out an attack on an IDF patrol.

## ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

### **Attacker stabs female soldier in Northern W. Bank**

A female attacker stabbed a female soldier in the Northern West Bank near the Shaked settlement Sunday evening. Initial reports from the IDF indicated that the female terrorist arrived at the scene by car, emerged from her vehicle with a knife and attempted to kill the security officer at a checkpoint, but only succeeded in lightly wounding her, reports [The Jerusalem Post](#).

The IDF force on the scene managed to stop the terrorist without the use of firearms. The attempted stabbing comes just days after a stabbing in Jerusalem in which an 18 year old yeshiva student was stabbed in the upper body multiple times in the A-Tur neighborhood, near the the Mount of Olives. He sustained moderate injuries and was transferred to the Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem.

## ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

### **IDF takes first step to build new intel center in Negev**

The Israeli Ministry of Defense on Tuesday published a performance qualification (PQ) phase for the establishment of a new intelligence center in the Negev, a first step toward publishing a tender for the complex in a year's time. The tender is part of an extensive national plan to relocate IDF bases to the Negev from the center of the country, consolidating operations to save money and opening up land for development in the Gush Dan area. According to [The Times of Israel](#), the move will bring some 80 percent of the IDF Intelligence Corps to the Negev by 2022, when use of the center for private development will begin. The Intelligence Center will be built near the Omar community in southern Israel on land comprising some 350,000 square meters, according to the Defense Ministry. The complex "will be characterized by innovative planning with advanced, energy efficient infrastructure," the ministry said in a statement Tuesday. According to real estate experts, the land the IDF is vacating in the center of the country is worth tens of billions of dollars and is part of a multi-year government program to tackle the housing crisis in the center.

### **Israel's HomeBiogas installs unit at Ugandan orphanage**

A bio-digester from Israel's HomeBiogas is now converting organic waste into clean renewable energy at the Buvundya Orphanage in Uganda, thanks to a donor who bought the system. "These children lit up when they discovered the HomeBiogas magic—that they can transform their waste and produce their very own energy," according to the company's chief scientist and cofounder, Yair Teller. According to [Israel21c](#), HomeBiogas provides a sustainable solution in warmer climates for off-grid urban and rural families, environmentally conscious homeowners and small farm owners. Previously, Israel's Ministry of Environmental Protection purchased and installed HomeBiogas units in two Bedouin Negev villages without access to clean energy and garbage removal. They now can produce their own clean biogas for cooking, heating and lighting, as well as organic liquid crop fertilizer. The backyard units, available as an easy-to-assemble kit made in Israel, perform bacterial anaerobic digestion of organic waste such as food scraps and animal manure. A bio-filter reduces odors, and a chlorine filter eliminates pathogens in the fertilizer produced. The Peres Center for Peace in Jaffa bought HomeBiogas units for two Arab communities in Palestinian Authority-administered areas of the West Bank that lack proper waste-disposal systems.