



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending February 19, 2016

EGYPT

In a First, New Egyptian Schoolbook Teaches Peace Deal with Israel

The peace treaty signed between Israel and Egypt in 1979 will for the first time be taught in Egyptian schools, Army Radio reported Tuesday. The peace deal is described in a matter-of-fact way, without bias or any attempt to present Israel in a negative light, the report said. The authors of the Egyptian schoolbook, intended for the ninth grade, detail eight clauses from the agreement, which are reproduced in the book verbatim. These include phrases on Israel and Egypt “ending the state of war” and on “each side respecting the sovereignty and independence of the other side.” According to [The Times of Israel](#), the authors note that Egyptian president Anwar Sadat and then-Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin won the Nobel Peace Prize for signing the treaty. “The reason they won was the great effort they invested in reaching peace in the Middle East,” the book says. The new inclusion of the peace treaty is part of an overarching change in the contents of schoolbooks for all grades announced by the Egyptian Education Ministry two years ago. It was reported that content in some 1,300 different books was changed and in some instances the changes were decisively political.

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

Update: Palestinian and Arab Terrorism against Israel

Palestinian and Arab terrorist attacks against Israel have left at least 29 dead and over 200 wounded. Below is a timeline of major attacks since February 14.

Feb. 18: One Israeli was killed and another was injured in a stabbing attack in the Sha’ar Binyamin industrial zone in the West Bank. An Israeli civilian shot and wounded the two Palestinian stabbers.

Feb. 16: Israeli police detained a Palestinian who was hiding a knife in his sleeve near the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem’s Old City.

Feb. 15: Israeli police officers arrested a knife-wielding Palestinian at the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem.

Feb. 14: Palestinians attempted five terrorist attacks against Israelis. Two Palestinians threw rocks at passing vehicles west of Jenin. When Israeli soldiers responded to the incident, one of the Palestinians opened fire on the soldiers. Soldiers returned fire and killed both Palestinian attackers. At the Mazmoriya checkpoint near Jerusalem, a knife-wielding Palestinian ran at Israeli police, but was shot and subdued by the police. Also in Jerusalem, an Israeli woman reported that a young Arab armed with a knife tried to stab her, but she successfully fled the

scene unharmed. In Beit El in the West Bank, shots fired at an Israeli house caused damage but failed to cause any injuries. Late at night, at the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City, two Palestinian gunmen carrying automatic weapons opened fire on Border Police officers who shot and killed the terrorists. Reportedly, one of the Palestinian attackers was a Palestinian policeman.

PA: Palestinians to 'never' again negotiate directly with Israel

In a striking rejection of relentless international efforts to broker new talks, Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Riyad al-Malki said Monday that the Palestinians will "never" return to direct negotiations with Israel. "We will never go back and sit again in a direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations," Malki told a press conference. He is visiting Japan with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who was due to meet Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe later Monday. According to [The Times of Israel](#), Malki stressed that a multilateral framework to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is needed and he praised an initiative discussed late last month by France to revive plans for an international conference to end the conflict.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israeli Holocaust survivor could be world's oldest man

Haifa's Yisrael Kristal isn't concerned whether or not he's the world's oldest man. But historians and genealogists are working overtime to try and find documents to satisfy the Guinness World Records rules to prove this Polish-born Israeli Holocaust survivor's 112 years. The family of the retired confectionery maker says he was born September 15, 1903. Guinness World Records confirmed that following the death in Japan of 112-year-old Yasutaro Koide, Kristal may be the oldest man alive today. Kristal has his marriage certificate from 1928 – when he was 25 years old. But the organization that annually publishes a book of the world's records and achievements says that in order for Kristal to receive an official World Record holder title, he must provide documentation from the first 20 years of his life. Kristal was born in Zarnov, then moved with his family to Lodz until the Nazi occupation. He worked as a candy maker in his family's confectionery shop but eventually was sent to the Auschwitz death camp. Kristal has nine grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. In 2014, after the death of Alice Herz-Sommer in London, Kristal became the world's oldest Holocaust survivor. And while genealogists the world over are searching for documents to support Kristal's age and get him recognized as the record holder, the man born three months before the Wright brothers took their first flight isn't excited about the promising title. According to [Israel21c](#), when he was told about it by a Haaretz journalist, he answered: "Big deal."