



# Rabbinic Recap

The week ending February 5, 2016

## ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

### **Hamas Confirms Death of Two of its Operatives in Tunnel Collapse**

Hamas officials confirmed on Wednesday morning the death of at least two of its operatives in a terror tunnel collapse, reports [The Jerusalem Post](#). Eight others were reported missing after the underground passageway caved in, according to Hamas military wing, the Izzadin al-Kassam Brigades. Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas leader in Gaza, said on Friday that the group will never stop digging tunnels and upgrading rockets in preparation for any possible confrontation with Israel. Haniyeh, who is also Hamas's deputy chief, spoke to a crowd of worshipers in a Gaza City mosque during prayers that were followed by the funeral for the Hamas men. "There are heroes east of Gaza City, digging the rocks and building tunnels," said Haniyeh. "And west of Gaza, heroes are testing rockets every morning and every day and it is all preparations."

### **Update: Palestinian and Arab Terrorism against Israel**

Palestinian and Arab terrorist attacks against Israel have left at least 28 dead and over 200 wounded. Below is a timeline of major attacks since January 30.

Feb. 4: Two Israeli Arab girls stabbed a security guard at Ramle's central bus station, lightly injuring the guard. The attackers fled the scene.

Feb. 3: One Israeli Border Police officer was killed and another was seriously wounded when three Palestinians shot and stabbed them outside the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City. All three attackers were shot dead by Israeli Border Police. The attackers were armed with knives, automatic weapons and pipe bombs.

Feb. 1: A Palestinian attempted to stab Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers near Salit in the West Bank. He was shot and killed on the scene by security forces.

Jan. 31: A member of the Palestinian Authority security forces shot and wounded three IDF soldiers at a checkpoint near Beit El in the West Bank. The attacker was shot dead by Israeli forces at the scene. In the West Bank near Modi'in, IDF soldiers thwarted an attempted car-ramping attack on the Maccabim checkpoint.

Jan. 30: An American-Israeli teenager was injured in a stabbing attack by two Palestinian youths outside the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City. Both attackers and an accomplice were arrested by Israeli police.

## HEZBOLLAH

### **DEA, International Authorities Expose Major Hezbollah Drug and Money Laundering Ring**

On Feb. 1, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) uncovered a massive Hezbollah drug trafficking and money laundering ring.

The DEA, in coordination with numerous international law enforcement agencies in seven other countries, arrested members of the terrorist organization's External Security Organization Business Affairs Component. They were found utilizing drug trafficking money to purchase weapons in support of terrorist activities in Syria.

The ongoing investigation is part of the DEA's Project Cassandra, an initiative focused on the international Hezbollah network responsible for moving large quantities of cocaine in the United States and Europe. The network has established ties to South American drug cartels. The investigation originated from a previous inquiry that had been conducted into the Lebanese-Canadian Bank.

"These drug trafficking and money laundering schemes utilized by the Business Affairs Component provide a revenue and weapons stream for an international terrorist organization responsible for devastating terror attacks around the world," said DEA Acting Deputy Administrator Jack Riley. "DEA and our international partners are relentless in our commitment to disrupt any attempt by terrorists and terrorist organizations to leverage the drug trade against our nations. DEA and our partners will continue to dismantle networks who exploit the nexus between drugs and terror using all available law enforcement mechanisms."

Click [here](#) to read the DEA's full statement.

## ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

### **Leviathan Partners Sign \$1.3 Billion Gas Deal With Edeltech**

Israel's natural gas companies and Noble Energy Inc. have signed the first contract to supply fuel from the country's largest gas reserves, the offshore Leviathan field, reports [Bloomberg](#). Partners in Leviathan will supply 6 billion cubic meters of gas over 18 years to two power stations owned by local electricity producer Edeltech Group, according to a statement filed to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. Under a government program for the country's gas industry approved last month, Leviathan will be developed by Texas-based Noble with Delek Drilling LP and Avner Oil Exploration LP, units of Israel's Delek Group Ltd. "This deal marks a beginning. We are advancing more agreements with customers in Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Turkey," Yossi Abu, Delek Drilling's chief executive officer, said in an e-mailed statement. "Development of the Leviathan field will ensure Israel's energy security and gas export contracts from the site will strengthen the country's geopolitical position in the region."

[https://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/AIPAC\\_RABB/attach/RRECAPFebruary5.docx](https://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/AIPAC_RABB/attach/RRECAPFebruary5.docx)